

**Title:** Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Abstract

**Background:** Post-term birth is a preventable cause of perinatal mortality and severe morbidity. This review examined the association between maternal BMI and post-term birth at  $\geq 42$  and  $\geq 41$  weeks' gestation.

**Methods:** Six databases, reference lists and citations were searched May-November 2015. Observational studies published in English since 1990 were included. Linear and nonlinear dose-response meta-analyses were conducted using random effects models. Sensitivity analyses assessed robustness of the results. Meta-regression and sub-group meta-analyses explored heterogeneity. Obesity classes were defined as I ( $30.0\text{--}34.9\text{kg/m}^2$ ), II ( $35.0\text{--}39.9\text{kg/m}^2$ ), and III ( $\geq 40\text{kg/m}^2$ ; IIIa  $40.0\text{--}44.9\text{kg/m}^2$ , IIIb  $\geq 45.0\text{kg/m}^2$ ).

**Results:** Searches identified 16,375 results; 39 studies met the inclusion criteria ( $n=4,143,700$  births). A nonlinear association between maternal BMI and births  $\geq 42$  weeks was identified, ORs and 95% CIs for obesity classes I-IIIb were 1.42 (1.27-1.58), 1.55 (1.37-1.75), 1.65 (1.44-1.87) and 1.75 (1.50-2.04) respectively. BMI was linearly associated with births  $\geq 41$  weeks: OR 1.13 (95% CI 1.05-1.21) for each 5 unit increase in BMI.

**Conclusions:** The strength of the association between BMI and post-term birth increases with increasing BMI. Odds are greatest for births  $\geq 42$  weeks among class III obesity. Targeted interventions to prevent the adverse outcomes associated with post-term birth should consider the difference in risk between obesity classes.

Abbreviations:

- BMI    body mass index
- OR    odds ratio
- CI    confidence interval
- IQR   inter quartile range
- RR    relative risk

## Introduction

Post-term birth is a preventable cause of intra-uterine death, stillbirth, neonatal and infant death<sup>1-4</sup>.

Post-term birth contributes to severe morbidities for the mother and child, including macrosomia, shoulder dystocia, birth injury, fourth degree perineal laceration, fetal compromise, antenatal and postpartum haemorrhage, fetal dysmaturity, labour >24 hours, and newborn respiratory distress syndrome<sup>1, 5-7</sup>. There is emerging evidence that primiparous women who deliver post-term have an increased risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes in later life<sup>8</sup>. Costly obstetric and neonatal interventions associated with post-term birth include caesarean section, induction of labour, operative vaginal delivery, close fetal monitoring beyond term, ventilator use and neonatal intensive care admission<sup>1, 7, 9</sup>. The risks associated with post-term birth have historically been under-estimated due to self-reported assessment of gestational age relying on last menstrual period. This self-report assessment over-estimates post-term prevalence, resulting in an underestimate of the risks of “true” post-term birth due to lower-risk “term” births being misclassified as post-term<sup>1, 4, 6</sup>. Current wide-spread use of ultrasound scan technology provides a more accurate estimation of gestational age<sup>10</sup>, and allows exploration of the “true” post-term risks.

Maternal obesity (i.e. pre-pregnancy body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ ) impacts on daily clinical practice due to the international rise in its prevalence, and the complexity of its comorbidities. Maternal obesity is a **complex condition** strongly associated with socio-economic status and ethnicity inequalities<sup>11, 12</sup>, making it a public health priority in addition to being a priority area for clinical practice.

For example, socio-economic status varies between obesity classes, and pregnant women in the highest obesity class (class III, BMI  $\geq 40\text{kg/m}^2$ ) are significantly more likely to reside in deprived locations (OR 4.7, 95% CI 3.2-6.9) compared with women in obesity class I (BMI 30.0-34.9kg/m<sup>2</sup>)(OR 2.2, 95% CI 2.1-2.3)<sup>11</sup>. Disparities are also seen with maternal employment status. Pregnant women with a BMI in class I are more likely to be employed, while those in class III are more likely to be unemployed<sup>11</sup>. Obesity-associated adverse pregnancy outcomes for the mother and child include poorer mental health<sup>13</sup>, gestational diabetes<sup>14</sup>, congenital anomalies<sup>15</sup>, and perinatal mortality<sup>2, 16</sup>. Pre-pregnancy weight is the most significant modifiable risk factor for stillbirth, with up to 100% increased

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risk for women with obesity<sup>22</sup>. There is increasing evidence that maternal BMI influences gestational age at delivery. Robust meta-analysis data demonstrates the relationship between BMI and pre-term birth<sup>17, 18</sup>. Despite published studies exploring the association between maternal BMI and post-term birth<sup>19-21</sup>, there is a lack of robust evidence from meta-analyses.

Both maternal obesity and post-term birth are preventable, and therefore warrant intervention to prevent associated adverse outcomes. Challenges to investigating maternal obesity and post-term birth include interventions to expedite birth, such as induction of labour and caesarean section, interrupting the natural gestation trajectory. There are differences in the definitions used to classify post-term in existing literature, including pregnancies progressing beyond 40, 41, or 42 weeks gestation<sup>4, 6</sup>. Although there is evidence of significantly increased risks for each definition of post-term beyond 40 weeks<sup>22</sup>, the greatest risk is among the gestations >42 weeks for most adverse outcomes<sup>9</sup>. The terminology post-term and prolonged pregnancy are also used interchangeably to describe gestational ages beyond term<sup>4</sup>.

Investigation of the association between maternal obesity and post-term birth adds additional complexity. Maternal obesity is associated with a significantly increased risk of developing the comorbidities which lead to early intervention and disrupt the natural pregnancy trajectory, including gestational diabetes and preeclampsia<sup>14, 22</sup>. In addition, the BMI definitions used to categorise maternal weight status are used inconsistently, contributing to difficulty of interpretation when making direct comparisons of studies. The World Health Organisation criteria for categorising BMI are <18.5kg/m<sup>2</sup> (underweight), 18.5-24.9kg/m<sup>2</sup> (recommended weight), 25.0-29.9kg/m<sup>2</sup> (overweight), and ≥30.0kg/m<sup>2</sup> (obese); with further obesity sub-classes of class I 30.0-34.9kg/m<sup>2</sup>, class II 35.0-39.9kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and class III ≥40kg/m<sup>2</sup> obesity<sup>23</sup>. For Asian populations, the BMI criteria are reduced (recommended weight 18.5-23kg/m<sup>2</sup>, overweight 23-27.5kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and obese >27.5kg/m<sup>2</sup>) due to increased risk of metabolic diseases at a lower BMI<sup>24</sup>. However, the Asian-specific definitions for weight status are not consistently adopted internationally in research or clinical guidelines.

Overcoming the methodological challenges to establish the relationship between BMI and post-term birth is important to inform strategies for preventing associated adverse outcomes, such as perinatal mortality and severe morbidity. Additionally, identification of the dose-response association would inform preconception and antenatal healthcare planning, practice and guidelines such as risk communication and shared decision making for intervention options for targeted groups of women based on BMI. This systematic review and meta-analyses aimed to establish the strength of the association between maternal obesity and post-term birth. It specifically investigated the dose-response association between BMI and post-term birth, taking into consideration the methodological challenges, confounding and sources of heterogeneity in the existing research.

## Methods

Search strategies for systematic reviews of observational epidemiological studies require multiple components as database searches alone have been shown to only identify up to half of the relevant literature<sup>25</sup>. Systematic exclusion of studies through following an inadequate search strategy increases the risk of publication bias. Therefore a six stage search strategy was followed in an attempt to limit the effect of publication bias arising from searching literature databases alone.

Stage 1: Databases were searched using keywords and study filters for non-RCT studies. Restrictions to human studies were included. Search terms and subject headings were developed for MEDLINE (fig. 1), and translated across four additional databases: British Nursing Index, CINAHL, Embase, and PsycInfo (fig. S1).

Stage 2: The reference lists of all included studies, and all related systematic reviews identified in stage 1, were hand searched.

Stage 3: Citation searches for all included studies were performed using Google Scholar citations function.

Stage 4: Authors of relevant published abstracts were contacted to identify if there had been subsequent full publication of studies.

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Stage 5: Any additional studies identified in stages 2-4 were subject to further reference list and citation searching. Stages 2-5 continued until no further new studies were identified.

Stage 6: Authors of included studies were contacted for additional data when required for inclusion in the meta-analyses.

Inclusion criteria were peer reviewed full studies (i.e. not abstracts, editorials etc), published in the English language, since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1990. Studies had to report both the exposure variable (maternal weight status) and the outcome variable (post-term birth). The six stage search strategy was carried out between May and November 2015. Screening titles, abstracts and full papers for inclusion in the review was carried out by two researchers independently. Data extraction and quality assessment were also carried out independently by two researchers using a standardised protocol for data extraction (table S1), and the Newcastle-Ottawa scale for cohort studies for quality assessment (fig S2). Independent extractions and assessments were combined and agreed. A third researcher was available for any disagreements (not required).

In circumstances where there were missing or unclear definitions for the exposure or outcome variables, missing frequency data, the authors were contacted for clarification. If authors did not respond to the request for further information after follow up email requests, or if the authors could not be contacted for any reason, then assumptions about the definitions were made based on the information provided in the papers. For example, if the study described that they had compared post-term (defined as  $\geq 42$  weeks) and pre-term (defined as  $< 37$  weeks) with term (undefined), then the assumption was made that term was defined as the gestational age between the reported post- and pre-term (37 to 41+6 weeks). Alternative methods of making assumptions included searching for definitions in papers that the authors had referenced in relation to gestational age or BMI, and searching for any publications by the same authors on a similar topic where they had defined the variables. In the absence of any information to inform our assumptions following these methods, the terminology used by the authors was used to define the exposure and outcomes variables. For

example, if the authors used the term “normal BMI” then the WHO criteria of 18.5-24.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> was assumed.

For the purposes of this systematic review, we categorised post-term birth into two outcome variables which were analysed separately. The primary outcome was post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks gestation as this gestation incurs the greatest risk associated with post-term birth, and the secondary outcome was post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks gestation as this gestation also has increased risk but to a lesser extent than 42 weeks. Dose-response meta-analyses were conducted to investigate the association between maternal BMI and both outcomes. The study-specific linear trends (odds ratios (ORs) for continuous BMI assuming linearity) were derived using the method by Greenland and Longnecker<sup>26</sup>. This method requires the ORs with confidence intervals (CIs) for at least two exposure categories (including the reference group), and the number of cases and participants in each exposure category. If the adjusted ORs and CIs were not available, the respective unadjusted parameters were derived from the data, and used in the meta-analysis. To assess the effect of including adjusted and unadjusted ORs in the meta-analysis, subgroup meta-analyses were performed with the studies that reported both adjusted and unadjusted ORs (or provided data to enable unadjusted ORs to be calculated), and the statistical significance and direction of the associations were compared. For each exposure category, the midpoint was calculated as the average of the lower and upper bound, and the respective OR was assigned to each midpoint. As the BMI midpoint was required for these analyses, upper and lower cutoffs were applied to open ended BMI categories in increments of 5 BMI units (e.g. for BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> a 5 BMI unit lower limit of 13.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> was applied; the respective midpoint was 16 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). The regression coefficient for a change of 5 BMI units ( $\log OR_{5\text{BMI}}$ ) is a function of the coefficient estimated when assuming a change of 1 BMI unit ( $\log OR_{\text{BMI}}$ ), such that  $\log OR_{5\text{BMI}} = 5 \times \log OR_{\text{BMI}}$ . The summary ORs were calculated using the random effects model by DerSimonian and Laird<sup>27</sup>.

A two-stage, random-effects, nonlinear dose-response meta-analysis<sup>28, 29</sup> was also conducted to assess potential nonlinear associations, using cubic splines regression to model maternal BMI. The first



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stage involved fitting a cubic spline model with two spline transformations, accounting for the correlation within each set of published ORs. The two regression coefficients were combined, and the variance/covariance matrices estimated for each study using a random-effects meta-analysis. Nonlinearity was assessed by testing that the coefficient of the second spline was equal to zero<sup>30</sup>. This method required ORs with CIs to be available for at least three exposure (BMI) categories, as when only two categories are reported (e.g. recommended BMI and obese BMI), information on how the outcome behaves between the two categories is not available and nonlinearity cannot be assessed. Therefore, studies reporting data for only two BMI categories were excluded from the nonlinear analyses.

Publication bias was tested for using Eggers test<sup>31</sup>. A 2-sided *p*-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. Sensitivity analyses were performed by systematically excluding one study at a time from the meta-analysis. Meta-regression and sub-group meta-analyses were carried out to explore factors identified *a-priori* as being potentially important sources of heterogeneity. *A-priori* clinical factors were the method of assessment of the exposure and outcome variables (maternal weight and gestational age at delivery), and consideration of the clinical confounders which impact on gestational age at delivery (induction of labour, elective caesarean section, parity, gestational diabetes, hypertension and pre-eclampsia). No studies were excluded from the overall meta-analysis based on methodological factors such as quality. However, methodological factors, including quality as well as study size, geography, quality, age and duration of the data included, study design (e.g. retrospective or prospective, number of exposure categories, adjusted data), and how studies were identified for inclusion in the review were explored by meta-regression and sub-group meta-analysis. Heterogeneity among studies was evaluated using the *I*<sup>2</sup> statistic<sup>32</sup> with a threshold of >75% representing considerable heterogeneity<sup>33</sup>. The statistical analyses were conducted using Stata version 13.1. Studies which met the inclusion criteria but did not present data suitable for inclusion in the meta-analyses are summarised narratively. The systematic review was registered on the PROSPERO database (reference CRD42015014164).

## Results

Searches identified 16,375 studies, of which 39 met the inclusion criteria, giving a total population of 4,143,700 births (fig. 2, table S2 for detailed information on screening). Of the included studies, 24 (62%) were identified through database searches and 15 (38%) by searching reference lists and citations. Contacting authors of published abstracts did not identify any additional eligible studies. Of the 39 included studies, 26 reported data for post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks, and 14 reported  $\geq 41$  weeks (see table 1 for summary of included studies, Table S3 for additional detail). Some studies provided data for both definitions of post-term (table 1). Twenty studies were from Europe, five each from the USA and Middle East, four from Asia, three from Canada, and one each from South Africa and Australia. Most studies were published between 2005 and 2014 ( $n=33$ ). Additional information was requested from the authors on definitions used (e.g. BMI or gestational age categories), or frequencies (e.g. number of cases or controls) for 34 studies (table S4). The quality of studies ranged from a score of one to eight, with a median quality score of four (table 1, and table S4 for detailed quality assessment results).

There was negligible influence of using unadjusted or adjusted ORs in the analysis of either post-term birth categories with a difference in OR of 0.03 when comparing adjusted and unadjusted data from the same studies (fig. S3). Therefore, adjusted ORs were used when reported, and unadjusted ORs in the absence of adjusted data. One study used the Asian specific BMI reference criteria<sup>34</sup>. These data were transformed to represent the general population BMI criteria with no influence on the overall effect size (fig. S4).

Nineteen studies reported data that could be pooled for meta-analysis of post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks, and 11 studies reported data for post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks (some studies reported multiple outcomes). Data from 10 studies could not be included in the meta-analysis and a narrative summary is provided for the results of these studies.

*Meta-analyses of post-term birth ≥42 weeks gestation*

The 19 studies with data for ≥42 weeks meta-analysis, included 201,396 cases among 2,501,803 pregnancies (8.1% incidence). In the dose-response analysis, the OR for each 5 unit increase or decrease in BMI compared with the reference BMI midpoint (22kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was 1.19 (95% CI 1.12-1.26; heterogeneity  $I^2=98.1\%$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) (fig. 3a). There was evidence of a nonlinear association ( $p=0.002$ , table S6a, fig. 3b) with a statistically significant decrease in odds of births ≥42 weeks for underweight BMI compared with the reference group, and an increase for overweight and obese BMIs (table 2). The odds of birth ≥42 weeks increased within obesity classes, with 42%, 55%, 65% and 75% increased odds for BMI classes I, II, IIIa and IIIb respectively (table 2). There was no evidence of publication bias in the analyses of births ≥42 weeks ( $p=0.60$ , table S7).

*Meta-analyses of post-term birth ≥41 weeks gestation*

The 11 studies with data for the meta-analysis of births ≥41 weeks included 70,334 cases among 444,706 pregnancies (15.8% incidence). In the dose-response analysis, the OR for each 5 unit increase or decrease in BMI compared with the reference BMI midpoint was 1.13 (95% CI 1.05-1.21; heterogeneity  $I^2=94\%$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) (fig. 4a). Linearity of association between maternal BMI and birth ≥41 weeks is not rejected ( $p=0.23$ , table S6b). Assuming a linear association, this suggests a statistically significant decrease in odds of births ≥41 weeks for underweight BMI compared with the reference group, and an increase for overweight and obese BMIs (table 2, fig. 4b). This increasing linear association was also observed within the obesity classes, although to a lesser extent than for births ≥42 weeks (26%, 39%, and 52% increased odds for classes I, II, and III respectively) (table 2). There was no evidence of publication bias in the analyses of births ≥41 weeks ( $p=0.16$ , table S7).

*Sensitivity and heterogeneity analyses*

Sensitivity analyses did not show any significant influence on linearity of any individual studies in the linear analyses for either post-term categories (tables S8 and S9), or in the nonlinear analysis for births ≥42 weeks (table S8). For births ≥41 weeks, the sensitivity analyses for the nonlinear model detected

that data from one study<sup>35</sup> had an influence on linearity of the association between post-term birth and maternal BMI (table S9 and fig. S5). The inclusion of data from all studies visually appeared to be nonlinear (fig. S5); however, nonlinearity was not statistically significant ( $p=0.065$ , table S6c). When the data from this one study which was influencing linearity<sup>35</sup> were removed, the results showed a linear trend (fig. 4b).

Meta-regression exploring potential sources of heterogeneity identified that adjusting for the number of BMI exposure categories had the greatest influence on overall heterogeneity for births  $\geq 42$  weeks ( $I^2$  reduced by 22.2%, from 98.1 to 75.95%, table S10). Adjusting for additional variables in the meta-regression did not have a substantial impact on overall heterogeneity for either post-term outcomes. Sub-group meta-analyses for post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks, identified a significant reduction in heterogeneity ( $I^2 < 75\%$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ,  $\geq 3$  studies) in the following categories: having three or four exposure categories, sample size between 1,000-10,000, controlling for induction of labour or caesarean delivery, and controlling for hypertension or pre-eclampsia (table S10). The most relevant influence on heterogeneity in the sub-group meta-analyses of births  $\geq 41$  weeks was having four exposure categories (table S11).

#### *Narrative summary of papers not included in the meta-analysis*

The 10 studies which had to be excluded from the meta-analyses due to a lack of comparable data for pooling included: two studies only reporting maternal weight and not BMI<sup>36, 37</sup>, five did not report frequency data for participants and/or cases of post-term birth<sup>21, 38-41</sup>, and three did not have comparable BMI reference groups (one combined all non-obese<sup>42</sup>; one combined underweight and recommended weight<sup>43</sup>; and one combined recommended weight and overweight<sup>44</sup>). Of the ten studies not included in the meta-analyses, six found a significantly increased risk of post-term birth in obese women compared to the reference group<sup>21, 37-40, 44</sup>, while four did not find a significantly increased association<sup>36, 41-43</sup> (table 3).

Discussion

This systematic review and meta-analysis of over 4 million births has identified a significantly increasing association between maternal BMI and post-term birth. This association increases in strength as BMI increases, with a substantial difference in effect size between obesity classifications: a difference of 33% in odds of post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks, and 26% for  $\geq 41$  weeks when comparing obesity classes I and III. This substantial increase in post-term birth and associated risks for mothers in the highest obesity class presents a double burden of inequality. Women facing the greatest socio-economic disadvantage<sup>11</sup> also have the highest level of pregnancy-related risk, confirming that maternal obesity is both a clinical and public health priority for the wellbeing of women and their babies.

The mechanisms linking maternal BMI and post-term birth are not fully understood. The onset of labour involves mechanical and hormonal interactions between the mother, fetus and placenta. The exact causal pathways remain unclear and much of the evidence is based on animal models. This evidence suggests a number of potential mechanisms. Hormones are thought to play a key role in the pathway, including corticotrophin-releasing hormone, oestrogen, progesterone, prostaglandins and oxytocin<sup>45</sup>. Additionally, it is well established that women with obesity have increased inflammation, circulating leptin concentrations, insulin resistance, lipolysis, and dyslipidaemia. These metabolic abnormalities have been hypothesised to influence the onset of spontaneous or oxytocin-induced labour and uterine contractility<sup>45</sup>. There is also evidence from one study in humans that shows that women with diabetes (including type 1 diabetes and gestational diabetes) had significantly reduced spontaneous myometrial contractility compared with women without diabetes, even after stimulation with oxytocin<sup>46</sup>. Uterine biopsies identified reduced calcium channel expression and signalling among women with diabetes, and the authors concluded that this was likely to account for the reduced contractility in addition to a small but significant difference in myometrial mass<sup>46</sup>. As obesity and diabetes are closely related, further exploration of myometrial contractility between women of different weight status' could provide further evidence for causal mechanisms of post-term birth and obesity.

1 The heterogeneity in the relationship between degree of obesity and risk of post-term birth is an  
2 important message for researchers, practitioners and policy makers. The implication of using one  
3 criteria to define the obese population is an attenuation of the true risk for the higher obesity classes.  
4 Despite the differences between obesity classes, pregnancy outcome data is often reported for one  
5 obese category. When pregnancy outcomes are reported by obesity class, a similar pattern is often  
6 reported. For example, the odds of pre-term birth were reported to increase two-fold from 1.6 (95% CI  
7 1.4-1.8) for class I, to 3.0 (95% CI, 2.3-3.9) for class III obesity<sup>47</sup>. Similarly, the odds of GDM increased  
8 from 3.0 (95% CI 2.3 to 3.9) for class I, to 5.6 (95% CI 4.3 to 7.2) for class III obesity<sup>14</sup>. However,  
9 differentiating between obesity classes can be challenging. Although class III obesity is increasing at  
10 the most rapid rate over time<sup>11</sup> it only represents approximately 1% of pregnancies in the UK<sup>11</sup>, and 4%  
11 in the USA<sup>12</sup>. For population data to be powered for statistical significance, the sample size needs to be  
12 sufficient to detect enough cases in each obesity class. Our sub-group meta-analyses suggests that  
13 100 cases of post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks, and 1000 cases for  $\geq 41$  weeks are required to detect  
14 significance, which may not always be feasible, even in national-level datasets. When obesity  
15 classifications have to be combined for statistical power, there should be cautious interpretation of the  
16 results reflecting “obesity” without consideration of the heterogeneous nature of obesity classifications.

17 Additionally, the use of Asian-specific rather than general population BMI criteria should be considered  
18 in future research. Although we did not identify any impact of using either definition on post-term birth in  
19 this review, our analyses were limited as only one study had utilised the Asian-specific criteria.

20 There are similar challenges with inconsistent use of post-term birth categories. Meta-analyses showed  
21 an increased association with maternal BMI and both post-term categories, and the highest odds for  
22 births  $\geq 42$  weeks. Although there is significantly increased risk for pregnancies progressing beyond 40  
23 weeks<sup>22</sup>, the greatest risk is in pregnancies with gestations  $\geq 42$  weeks<sup>9</sup>, particularly for perinatal  
24 mortality and severe morbidities which require obstetric and neonatal intervention. Studies which  
25 combine post-term birth categories are likely to underestimate the level of risk associated with maternal  
26 BMI.

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A key strength of this review is overcoming the methodological challenges of investigating post-term birth and maternal BMI. Analyses were performed throughout to explore the influence of methodological decisions, such as using unadjusted data and Asian-specific BMI categories. The conversion of categorical BMI was necessary due to limited reporting of directly comparable obesity categories: 17 studies combined data for obesity classes I-III<sup>19, 34, 35, 38, 42-44, 48-57</sup>; three reported obesity classes I-III separately<sup>58-60</sup>; four combined obesity classes I-II<sup>20, 41, 61, 62</sup>; six combined classes II-III<sup>39, 40, 63-66</sup>; seven had further inconsistent non-comparable categories such as combining overweight and obese<sup>36, 37, 67-71</sup>; and two studies did not define their BMI categories<sup>21, 72</sup>. The possible groups to combine for categorical analyses would have been further reduced when applying additional analysis criteria such as the gestational age stratification, definition of the reference BMI group etc. Therefore the conversion to continuous BMI allowed direct comparison of more studies overall than would have been possible using a categorical meta-analyses. To aid the interpretation of continuous BMI analyses, increments of 5 BMI units were used to allow back-translation to approximate WHO categories. This allows for international comparison with other published research on maternal BMI, and facilitates interpretation for clinical practice, public health and policy-maker decisions which have a tendency to utilise BMI categories.

A further strength of this systematic review is the rigorous search strategy. It has been demonstrated that database searches alone are not sufficient for epidemiology systematic reviews<sup>25</sup>, and the Meta-analysis Of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) guidelines<sup>73</sup> recommend that additional searches may be necessary. We performed rigorous database searches including pilot and refinement of the search strategy by the research team, including an information scientist with expertise in database searching. This was supplemented by additional searches in our six stage search strategy to identify the full evidence-base. Among the studies identified using additional search methods, some were published in journals not indexed on the bibliographic databases and therefore would not have been identified by database searches alone. Furthermore, the post-term data presented in a number of studies was not a primary outcome, rather one outcome among multiple adverse pregnancy outcomes being investigated. These studies did not include the post-term search terms in the keywords, titles or

abstracts and therefore would not have been identified by any search strategy using these terms. This rigorous search strategy was time-consuming, although resulted in an absence of publication bias. The method of searching (i.e. database, reference list or citation searches) was an *a-priori* factor considered in the sub-group meta-analysis and meta-regression to explore sources of heterogeneity between studies. While the method of searching did not impact on overall heterogeneity, the subgroup analyses suggests that the inclusion of studies identified through database searches were more likely to show statistically significant results in meta-analysis than the studies identified by the additional searches (see table S10 for example of analysis on post-term  $\geq 42$  weeks). This result could have been due to more studies being included in the  $\geq 42$  weeks sub-group meta-analysis identified by database searches ( $n=12$ ) compared with citation searches ( $n=4$ ) or reference list searches ( $n=3$ ). However, it could also suggest that database searches alone would result in positive publication bias by only identifying those studies more likely to show statistical significance. This result supports the MOOSE guidelines recommendation for supplementing database searches when carrying out systematic reviews of observational studies.

A limitation of systematic review methodology is reliance on the availability of published data which can impact on the analyses. The use of self-reported last menstrual period or measured ultrasound scan is an important clinical factor influencing the assessment of gestational age, yet five studies did not specify methods of assessment for the  $\geq 42$  weeks meta-analysis, and a further seven for  $\geq 41$  weeks. Meta-regression identified some factors considered to be important *a priori* which did not impact on the results, such as the use of self-report or measured BMI. The use of self-reported BMI among obese BMI groups is a frequent methodological criticism<sup>74</sup>, yet had little influence in our meta-regression analyses. Others have reported that the error caused by self-report misclassification of BMI among overweight and obese women has minimal influence on the dose-response analyses for large for gestational age, gestational diabetes and preeclampsia<sup>75</sup>. Therefore, the potential under-reporting of self-reported BMI appears to have little influence on large-scale epidemiological analysis of maternal weight status and pregnancy outcomes. Additionally, 25 of the included studies did not report ethnicity of their population and therefore we could not explore this in the meta-regression or sub-group analysis



and makes the generalisability across ethnicities challenging. However, one quarter of the studies were from the Middle East, Asia or South Africa which suggests that there was some ethnic diversity present in the populations rather than data originating from mainly White populations. Of the studies that reported ethnicity, eight studies described their population as mainly White, one as all Asian, one as mainly African, and four described a mix of ethnic groups in the population. The meta-regression did explore country of study and this did not impact on overall heterogeneity of results.

Maternal obesity is increasing internationally, and the daily challenges for clinical and public health practice will also continue to increase. Results of this systematic review and meta-analyses add to the evidence-base of increased risks associated with maternal obesity, and can be used to inform preconception and pregnancy care. Policy makers should emphasise the importance of supporting women to reduce their BMI preconception and inter-pregnancy to prevent the adverse outcomes associated with post-term birth, such as perinatal and infant mortality. The increasing dose-response association also informs healthcare planning and commissioning of services, as the level and intensity of intervention required to prevent adverse outcomes associated with post-term birth will differ according to BMI class. The data can also be used to inform the need for interventions such as induction of labour and caesarean delivery to prevent pregnancies progressing to post-term. These procedures in obese populations also present clinical challenges and require increased planning, evidence-based risk communication and shared decision making about birth plans. Any steps taken to support the health and wellbeing of women and their babies in relation to post-term birth and associated risks should be informed by the dose-response association between the obesity classes. Further research which utilises maternal BMI should also consider the heterogeneity within obesity populations, and the need for adequately powered studies to explore pregnancy outcomes in the higher, less prevalent, obesity classes.

## Conclusions

Maternal obesity is having a significant impact on daily clinical practice. The association between maternal BMI and post-term birth increases with increasing BMI, with the greatest odds among women in obesity class III and with post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks. Pregnancies which progress beyond 42 weeks have significantly increased risk of adverse outcomes, including perinatal mortality. This presents a double burden of disease among women with morbid obesity, which is also associated with the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage compared with other BMI categories. Future maternal obesity research should consider the heterogeneity between obesity classes. Healthcare policy and practice should ensure that necessary interventions are in place to prevent the adverse outcomes associated with post-term birth, considering the increased risk among the higher obesity classes.

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Figures and tables

Figure 1: MEDLINE database search

Figure 2: PRISMA flowchart of searches, screening, and inclusion and exclusion of studies

Figure 3: Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks: 3a) Linear odds ratio per 5 maternal BMI units; 3b) Nonlinear dose-response analysis.

Legend: Linear and nonlinear dose-response analyses for post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks. A) The squares and lines through the squares represent the study-specific ORs and 95% CIs. The dimension of the square is proportional to the weight of the study in the meta-analysis. The diamond represents the summary OR.

Figure 4: Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks: 4a) Linear odds ratio per 5 maternal BMI units; 4b) Nonlinear dose-response analysis.

Legend: Linear and nonlinear dose-response analyses for post-term birth. A) The squares and lines through the squares represent the study-specific ORs and corresponding 95% CIs. The dimension of the square is proportional to the weight of the study in the meta-analysis. The diamond represents the summary OR. B) Linear model with data from all included studies; nonlinear model following sensitivity analysis and exclusion of Lumme et al<sup>35</sup>, see fig. S5 and table S9.

Table 1: Summary of included studies

Footnote: + Reference group for BMI. \* Reference group for gestational age. Abbreviations: BMI = body mass index; CI = confidence interval; IQR = inter quartile range; OR = odds ratio; RR = relative risk

**Table 2:** Odds ratios from linear and nonlinear dose-response analyses for maternal BMI and post-term birth.

*Footnote: The midpoint generally corresponds to midpoints of WHO BMI categories. Class III obese was divided into two sub-classes (a and b) for the post-term  $\geq 42$  weeks analysis given that data was available. Two studies<sup>52,72</sup> were excluded from the nonlinear analyses as BMI was categorized in two groups only. Abbreviations: OR=odds ratio; CI = confidence interval; BMI=body mass index; ND=no data available.*

**Table 3:** Results of the studies included in the narrative summary.

*Footnote: Abbreviations: R = reference weight group, O = obese weight group; OR=odds ratio; AOR=adjusted odds ratio; CI=confidence interval*



Medline (Ovid) - In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) (OVID)  
1946 to May 2015

1 \*Pregnancy/  
2 Pregnanc\$.ti,ab.  
3 Matern\$.ti,ab.  
4 Obes\$.ti,ab.  
5 (Body adj1 composition).ti,ab.  
6 (BMI or Body mass index).ti,ab.  
7 Weight ti,ab.  
8 (Post adj1 term\$).mp.  
9 Postterm\$.mp.  
10 (Post adj1 date\$).mp.  
11 Postdate\$.mp.  
12 (Prolonged adj1 pregnanc\$).mp.  
13 (Fetomaternal adj1 morbidity).mp.  
14 Gestation.mp.  
15 Postmaturity.mp.  
16 (Post adj1 maturity).mp.  
17 cohort studies/ or longitudinal studies/ or follow-up studies/ or prospective studies/ or  
retrospective studies/ or cohort.ti,ab. or longitudinal.ti,ab. or prospective.ti,ab. or  
retrospective.ti,ab.  
18 Case-Control Studies/ or Control Groups/ or Matched-Pair Analysis/ or ((case\* adj5  
control\*) or (case adj3 comparison\*) or control group\*).ti,ab.  
19 Cross-Sectional Studies/ or cross-sectional.ti,ab. or ("prevalence study" or "incidence  
study" or "prevalence studies" or "incidence studies" or "transversal studies" or "transversal  
study").ti,ab.  
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24 20 and 21 and 22 and 23  
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26 limit 25 to female  
27 \*pregnancy, prolonged/  
28 \*Pregnancy Outcome/  
29 \*Pregnancy Complications/  
30 \*Body Mass Index/  
31 exp overweight/  
32 \*obesity/  
33 21 or 30 or 31 or 32  
34 22 or 27 or 28 or 29  
35 20 and 23 and 33 and 34  
36 35 not 24  
37 limit 36 to human  
38 limit 37 to female

Note: .mp.= title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword  
heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word,  
unique identifier

Figure 1: MEDLINE database search  
fig. 1  
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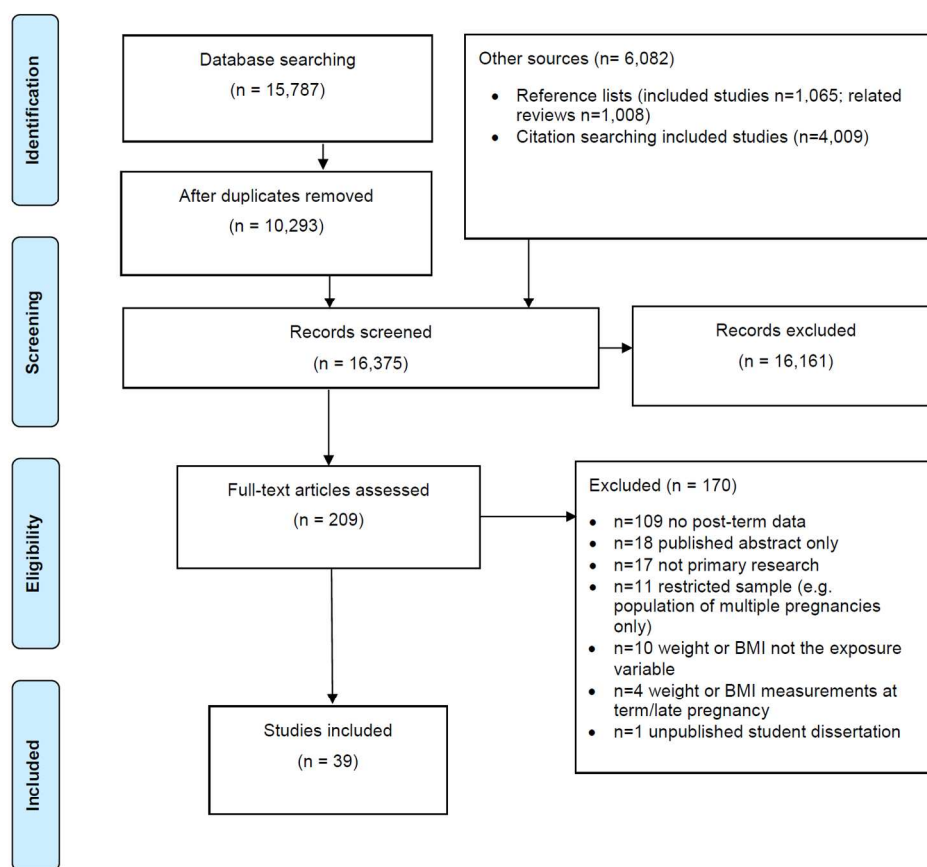


Figure 2: PRISMA flowchart of searches, screening, and inclusion and exclusion of studies  
fig. 2

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Table 1: Summary of included studies

Author, publication year, region, country	Study period	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Quality score (out of 8)
Abenhaim et al 2007 <sup>41</sup> , Canada	04/1987 - 03/1997	>37-42 * >42	20-24.9 + <19.9 25-29.9 30-39.9 >40	Not reported	1(1) 1.07 (0.86-1.33) 1.13 (0.89-1.45) 0.84 (0.55-1.28) 0.76 (0.19-3.10)	3
Al-Rayyan et al 2010 <sup>42</sup> Jordan	01/1990 - 12/2000	37-41 * >42	<30 + ≥30.0	Not reported	Not reported	2
Arora et al 2013 <sup>48</sup> Thailand	02/2011 - 08/2012	37-41 * 42	18.5-24.9+ <18.5 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	Not reported	3
Arrowsmith et al 2011 <sup>58</sup> UK	01/2004 - 12/2008	37-41 <sup>+2*</sup> 41 <sup>+3</sup>	20-24.9+ <19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 >40	Not reported	1(1) 0.75 (0.66-0.85) 1.24 (1.14-1.34) 1.52 (1.37-1.70) 1.75 (1.48-2.07) 2.27 (1.78-2.86)	8
Basu et al 2010 <sup>61</sup> South Africa	02/2006 and 09/2006	37-41 * >41	18.5-24.9+ 25-29.9 30-39.9 >40	Not reported	Not reported	3
Bhattacharya 2007 <sup>63</sup> UK	1976-2005	37-41 * >41	20-24.9+ <19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 >35	1 (1) 0.7 (0.6-0.8) 1.2 (1.1-1.3) 1.4 (1.1-1.6) 0.8 (0.4-1.7)	1 (1) 0.9 (0.7-1.1) 0.9 (0.8-1.1) 0.9 (0.7-1.1) 0.8 (0.4-1.8)	5
Briese et al 2011 <sup>38</sup> Germany	1998-2000	Not reported	18.5-24.9 ≥30	Not reported	1 (1) 1.45 (1.38-1.52)	4
Caughey et al 2009 <sup>21</sup> USA	01/1995 - 12/1999	37-<41* ≥41  37-<42* ≥42	Not obese + Obese (BMI not defined)	Not reported	1 (1) 1.29 (1.18, 1.40)  1 (1) 1.20 (0.99, 1.46)	4
Cedergren 2004 <sup>49</sup> Sweden	01/1992 - 12/2001	37-41 <sup>+6*</sup> ≥42	19.8-26+ 29.1-35 35.1-40 >40	Not reported	1 (1) 1.37 (1.33-1.41) 1.49 (1.40-1.58) 1.80 (1.62-2.01)	5
Denison et al 2008 <sup>39</sup> Sweden	1998-2002	37-41 <sup>+6*</sup> ≥42	20-25+ <20 25-<30 30-<35 ≥35	Term median BMI 22.9 (IQR 21.0–25.3) Postdate median BMI 23.4 (IQR 21.5–26.0) p<0.0001	Not reported	5
El-Gilany and Hammad 2010 <sup>50</sup> Saudi Arabia	01/2007-12/2007	37-42 * >42	18.5-24.9+ <18.5 25-29.9 ≥30	RR (95% CI) 1 (1) 2.3 (0.4-12.3) 2.0 (0.6-7.1) 3.7 (1.2-11.6)	Not reported	3

Author, publication year, region, country	Study period	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Quality score (out of 8)
Halloran et al 2012 <sup>19</sup> USA	2000-2006	37-40 * =41  =42	18.5-24.9* <18.5 25-29.9 ≥30  18.5-24.9* <18.5 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	Not reported	5
Johnson et al 1992 <sup>51</sup> USA	01/1987- 12/1989	38-42 * >42	<19.8* 19.8-26 27-29 >29	1 (1) 1.22 (0.89-1.66) 1.58 (1.03-2.4) 1.49 (1.01-2.2)	Not reported	5
Khashan and Kenny 2009 <sup>20</sup> UK	01/2004- 12/2006	Not reported* ≥41	18.5-24.9* <18.5 25-29.9 30-40 >40	1 (1) 0.79 (0.65-0.96) 1.13 (1.06-1.21) 1.28 (1.19-1.38) 1.17 (0.95-1.43)	1 (1) 0.81 (0.67-0.99) 1.17 (1.09-1.25) 1.35 (1.25-1.45) 1.24 (1.02-1.52)	5
Kistka et al 2007 <sup>40</sup> USA	1989-1997	37-41+6 * ≥42	Reference not defined* <20 >35	1 (1) 0.90 (0.88-0.93) 1.25 (1.19-1.32)	1 (1) 0.85 (0.82-0.87) 1.23 (1.16-1.29)	4
Kitiyodom and Tongswatwong 2008 <sup>67</sup> Thailand	10/2004- 09/2006	Reference not defined* Post-term not defined	20-24.9* >25	1 (1) 1.7 (1.19-2.44)	Not reported	3
Knight et al 2010 <sup>68</sup> UK	09/2007- 08/2008	Reference not defined* + >42	<50* ≥50	1 (1) 1.31 (0.76-2.25)	1 (1) 1.35 (0.77-2.37)	4
Konje et al 1993 <sup>72</sup> UK	01/1989- 06/1990	37-42 * >42	17-24* 30.4-53.0	Not reported	Not reported	4
Leung et al 2008 <sup>34</sup> Hong Kong	01/1995- 12/2005	37-40+6 * ≥41	18.5-<23* <18.5 ≥23-<25 ≥25-<27.5 ≥27.5-<30 ≥30	Not reported	1 (1) 0.84 (0.74-0.95) 1.06 (0.97-1.17) 1.21 (1.08-1.36) 1.25 (1.05-1.48) 1.34 (1.09-1.66)	4
Lumme et al 1995 <sup>35</sup> Finland	07/1985- 06/1986	37-41 * >41	19-24.9* <19 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	1 (1) 1.0 (0.7-1.4) 1.6 (1.2-2.1) 1.1 (0.6-1.9)	4
Mancuso et al 1991 <sup>36</sup> Italy	Not reported	38-41 * >42	15.2-26.6* >30	Not reported	Not reported	1
Manzanares et al 2012 <sup>37</sup> Spain	2007-2009	37-41* <sup>2</sup> * >41* <sup>3</sup>	18.5-25* <18.5 >35	Not reported	1 (1) 0.81 (0.35-1.91) 0.72 (0.34-1.55)	4
Morgan et al 2014 <sup>43</sup> UK	11/2010- 02/2013	Reference not defined* =42	18.5-24.9* 25-29.9 >29.9	1 (1) 2.18 (0.99-4.84)	Not reported	4
Navid et al 2013 <sup>69</sup> Pakistan	05/2011 - 07/2012	37-40* >40	18-24.9* 25-35	Not reported	Not reported	2

Author, publication year, region, country	Study period	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Quality score (out of 8)
Nohr et al 2009 <sup>70</sup> Denmark	1996-2002	37-41* >41	15-33.3 <sup>+</sup> 32.6-<35 35-<37.5 ≥37.5	Not reported	1 (1) 1.3 (1.1-1.5) 1.5 (1.3-1.8) 1.4 (1.2-1.7)	4
Olesen et al 2006 <sup>65</sup> Denmark	1996-2004	37- 41 <sup>+6</sup> * ≥42	20-24 <sup>+</sup> <20 25-29 30-34 ≥35	1 0.87 1.23 1.35 1.48 95%CI not reported	1 (1) 0.87 (0.80-0.94) 1.24 (1.15-1.34) 1.37 (1.22-1.54) 1.52 (1.28-1.82)	3
Raatikainen et al 2006 <sup>53</sup> Finland	01/1989 - 12/2001	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> >42	≤25 <sup>+</sup> 26-29 ≥30	Not reported	Not reported	5
Robinson et al 2005 <sup>37</sup> Canada	01/1988 - 12/1992	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> >41	55-75Kg <sup>+</sup> ≥90-120Kg >120Kg	1 (1) 1.10 (1.01-1.20) 0.91 (0.67-1.23)	1 (1) 1.18 (1.08-1.28) 0.99 (0.74-1.34)	4
Rode et al 2005 <sup>54</sup> Denmark	1998 - 2001	37-42* >42	<25 <sup>+</sup> 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	1 (1) 1.4 (1.2-1.7) 1.4 (1.1-1.9)	5
Roos et al 2010 <sup>55</sup> Sweden	01/1992 - 12/2006	37-41+6* ≥42	20-24.9 <sup>+</sup> <20 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	1 (1) 0.74 (0.72-0.76) 1.31 (1.29-1.33) 1.63 (1.59-1.67)	8
Schrauwers and Dekker 2009 <sup>62</sup> Australia	01/2006 - 06/2006	37-41* >41	19.1-25 <sup>+</sup> 25.1-30 30.1-40 >40	Not reported	Not reported	2
Scott-Pillai et al 2013 <sup>59</sup> UK	2004-2011	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> >41	18.5-24.99 <sup>+</sup> <18.50 25-29.99 30-34.99 35-39.99 ≥40	Not reported	1 (1) 0.5 (0.2-1.0) 0.9 (0.7-1.1) 0.8 (0.5-1.1) 0.9 (0.5-1.6) 0.8 (0.4-1.7)	7
Sharief and Tarik 2000 <sup>36</sup> Iraq	12/1997- 08/1998	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> Post-term not defined	≤90Kg >90Kg	Not reported	Not reported	3
Stotland et al 2007 <sup>56</sup> USA	1990-2001	37-<41* ≥41  37-<42* ≥42	19.8-26 <sup>+</sup> <19.8 26.1-29 >29	Not reported	1 (1) 0.83 (0.72-0.95) 1.29 (1.10-1.52) 1.81 (1.50-2.18)  1 (1) 0.78 (0.60-1.01) 1.51 (1.15-1.97) 1.69 (1.23-2.31)	6
Usha Kiran et al 2005 <sup>44</sup> UK	1990-1999	37-41* >41	20-30 <sup>+</sup> >30	1 (1) 1.4 (1.2-1.7)	Not reported	4
Vaswani and Balachandran 2013 <sup>60</sup> United Arab Emirates	12/2010 - 10/2011	37-41* >41	18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	Not reported	1 (1) 1.54 (0.89-2.65) 1.69 (0.96-2.98) 1.78 (0.93-3.42) 2.99 (1.35-6.65)	4

Author, publication year, region, country	Study period	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless specified)	Quality score (out of 8)
Vinturache et al 2014 <sup>57</sup> Canada	05/2008 - 12/2010	37-41 <sup>+b</sup> * ≥42	18.5-24.99 <sup>+</sup> 25-29.99 ≥30	Not reported	Not reported	5
Voigt et al 2008 <sup>71</sup> Germany	1998-2000	Term, not defined <sup>+</sup> Post-term, not defined	18.5-24.99 <sup>+</sup> 40-44.99 ≥45	Not reported	Not reported	2
Yazdani et al 2006 <sup>66</sup> Iran	2008-2009	Term, not defined <sup>+</sup> Post-term, not defined	20-24.9 <sup>+</sup> ≤19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 >35	Not reported	Not reported	2

Footnote: <sup>+</sup> Reference group for BMI. \* Reference group for gestational age. Abbreviations: BMI = body mass index; CI = confidence interval; IQR = inter quartile range; OR = odds ratio; RR = relative risk

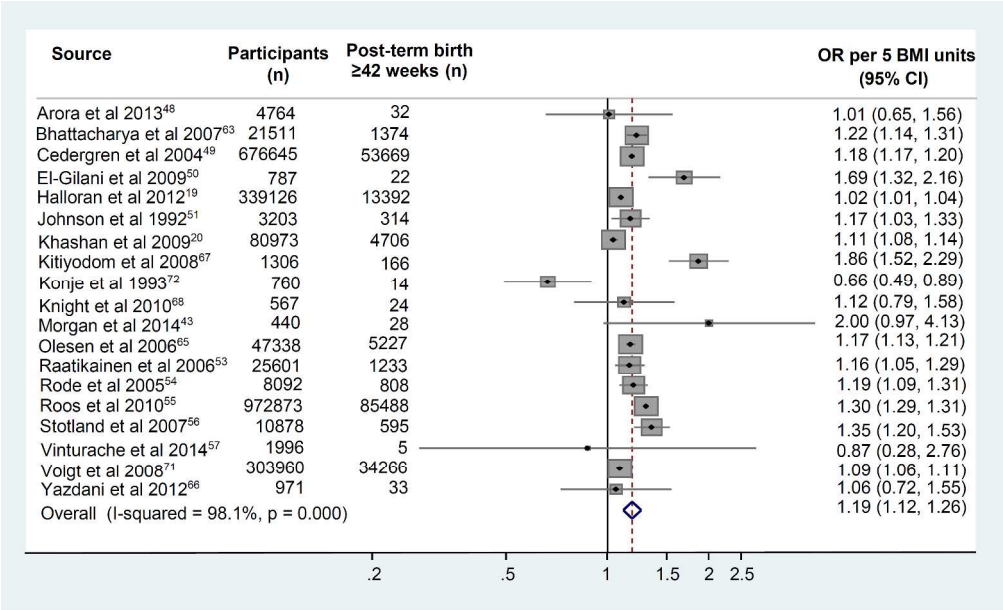


Figure 3: Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth ≥42 weeks: 3a) Linear odds ratio per 5 maternal BMI units

Legend: Linear dose-response analyses for post-term birth ≥42 weeks. A) The squares and lines through the squares represent the study-specific ORs and 95% CIs. The dimension of the square is proportional to the weight of the study in the meta-analysis. The diamond represents the summary OR.

fig. 3a

1098x714mm (96 x 96 DPI)

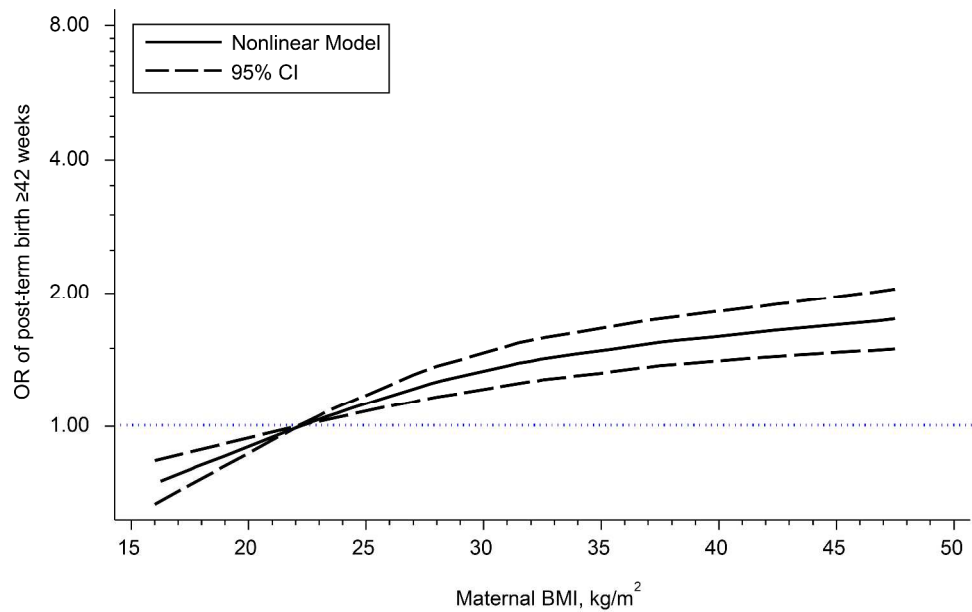


Figure 3: Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks: 3b) Nonlinear dose-response analysis.  
Legend: Nonlinear dose-response analyses for post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks.  
fig. 3b  
1893x1192mm (96 x 96 DPI)



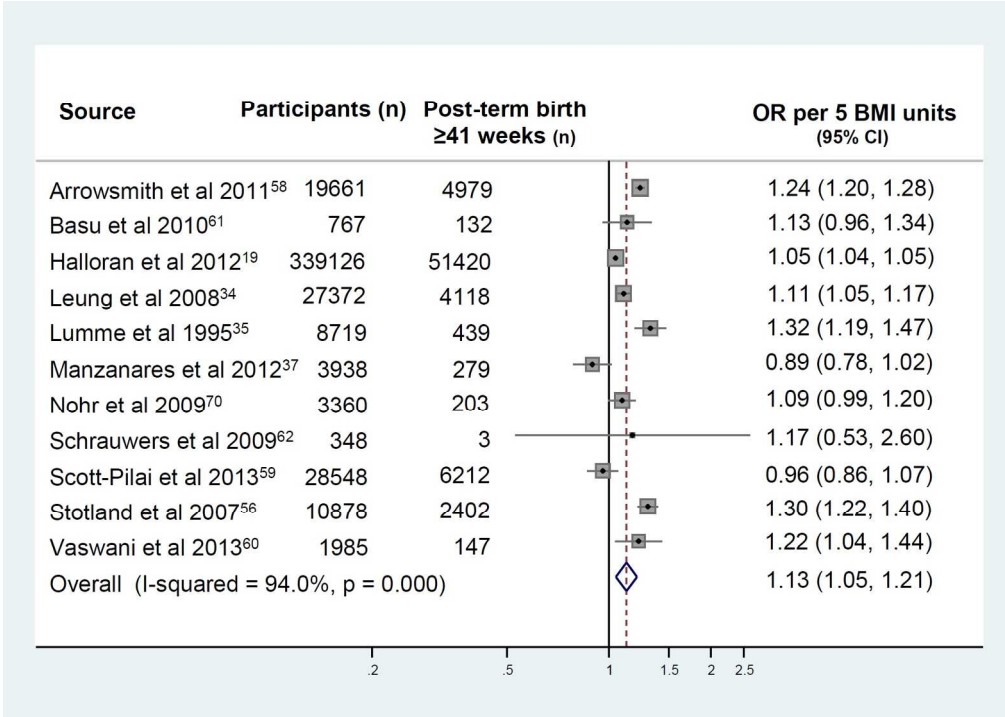


Figure 4: Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth ≥41 weeks: 4a) Linear odds ratio per 5 maternal BMI units.

Legend: Linear dose-response analyses for post-term birth. A) The squares and lines through the squares represent the study-specific ORs and corresponding 95% CIs. The dimension of the square is proportional to the weight of the study in the meta-analysis. The diamond represents the summary OR.

fig. 4a  
530x378mm (96 x 96 DPI)

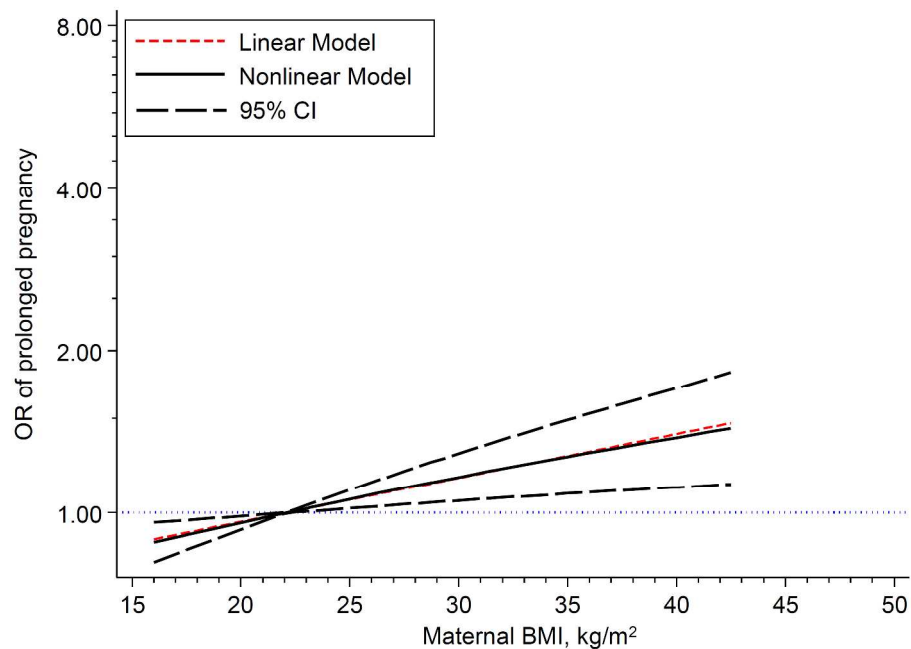


Figure 4: Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks: 4b) Nonlinear dose-response analysis.

Legend: Nonlinear dose-response analyses for post-term birth. B) Linear model with data from all included studies; nonlinear model following sensitivity analysis and exclusion of Lumme et al<sup>35</sup>, see fig. S5 and table S9.

fig. 4b

1018x714mm (96 x 96 DPI)

Table 2: Odds ratios from linear and nonlinear dose-response analyses for maternal BMI and post-term birth

		BMI Class (Midpoint BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> )						
	Model	Underweight (17.5)	Reference BMI (22.5)	Overweight (27.5)	Obese I (32.5)	Obese II (37.5)	Obese IIIa (42.5)	Obese IIIb (47.5)
Post-term ≥42 weeks	Linear OR (95% CI)	0.84 (0.76,0.94)	1	1.19 (1.12,1.27)	1.38 (1.31,1.46)	1.57 (1.50,1.64)	1.76 (1.69,1.83)	1.95 (1.88,2.02)
	Nonlinear OR (95% CI)	0.81 (0.74,0.88)	1	1.24 (1.15,1.34)	1.42 (1.27,1.58)	1.55 (1.37,1.75)	1.65 (1.44,1.87)	1.75 (1.50,2.04)
Post-term ≥41 weeks	Linear OR (95% CI)	0.88 (0.83,0.95)	1	1.13 (1.05,1.21)	1.26 (1.18,1.34)	1.39 (1.31,1.47)	1.52 (1.44,1.54)	ND
	Nonlinear OR (95% CI)	0.91 (0.85,0.97)	1	1.11 (1.04,1.20)	1.22 (1.07,1.39)	1.33 (1.10,1.59)	1.44 (1.13,1.83)	ND

Footnote: The midpoint generally corresponds to midpoints of WHO BMI categories. Class III obese was divided into two sub-classes (a and b) for the post-term ≥42 weeks analysis given that data was available. Two studies<sup>52,72</sup> were excluded from the nonlinear analyses as BMI was categorized in two groups only. Abbreviations: OR=odds ratio; CI = confidence interval; BMI=body mass index; ND=no data available.

**Table 3: Results of the studies included in the narrative summary**

Study	Country of study	Sample size	Maternal weight exposure variable*	Post-term variable	Results	Association with obesity	Primary reason not included in meta-analysis
Abenhaim et al 2007 <sup>41</sup>	Canada	18,633	R: BMI 20 to 24.9 O1: BMI 30 to 39.9 O2: BMI >40	>42 weeks	O1: AOR 0.84 (95% CI 0.55-1.28) O2: AOR 0.76 (95% CI 0.19-3.10) Frequency data not provided	No significant difference	No frequency data provided
Al-Rayyan et al 2010 <sup>42</sup>	Jordan	1,008	R: BMI <30 O: BMI >30	>42 weeks	R: n=55, 10.6% O: n=54, 11.0% Statistical analysis not reported	No difference	Non-comparable BMI reference group
Briese et al 2011 <sup>38</sup>	Germany	243,571	R: BMI 18.5 to 24.9 O: BMI ≥30	Not defined	AOR 1.45 (95% CI 1.38-1.52) Frequency data not provided	Significantly increased	No frequency data provided
Caughey et al 2009 <sup>21</sup>	USA	119,162	R: 'Not obese' O: 'Obese' Not defined	≥41 weeks ≥42 weeks	≥41 weeks AOR 1.26 (95% CI 1.16-1.37) ≥42 weeks AOR 1.20 (95% CI 0.99-1.46) Frequency data not provided	Significantly increased (41 weeks only)	No frequency data provided; Non-comparable BMI reference group
Denison et al 2008 <sup>39</sup>	Sweden	143,519	R: BMI 20 to <25 O1: BMI 30 to <35 O2: BMI ≥35	≥294 days (42 weeks)	Higher maternal BMI in 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester increased post-term (p<0.001)	Significantly increased	No frequency data provided
Kistka et al 2007 <sup>40</sup>	USA	368,633	R: not defined O: BMI >35	≥42 weeks	AOR 1.23 (95% CI 1.16-1.29) Frequency data not provided	Significantly increased	No frequency data provided
Mancuso et al 1991 <sup>36</sup>	Italy	160	R: BMI 15.2-26.6 O: BMI >30	>42 weeks	R: n=1 O: n=3 p>0.05	No significant difference	Non-comparable BMI reference group
Robinson et al 2005 <sup>37</sup>	Canada	142,404	R: 55 to 75kg O1: 90 to 120kg O2: >120kg	>41 weeks	R: n=4997, 6.3% O1: n=647, 6.9%; AOR 1.18 (95% CI 1.08-1.28) O2: n=45, 5.8%; AOR 0.99 (95% CI 0.74-1.34)	Significantly increased (O1 only)	Maternal exposure weight
Sharief et al 2000 <sup>36</sup>	Iraq	40	R: ≤90kg O: >90kg	Not defined	R: n=3, 15% O: n=3, 15% Statistical analysis not reported	No difference	Maternal exposure weight
Usha Kiran et al 2005 <sup>44</sup>	Wales	8,350	R: BMI 20 to 30 O: BMI >30	>41 weeks	R: n=2490, 32.5% O: n=278, 41.0%; OR 1.4 (95% CI 1.2-1.7)	Significantly increased	Non-comparable BMI reference group

Footnote: Abbreviations: R = reference weight group, O = obese weight group; OR=odds ratio; AOR=adjusted odds ratio; CI=confidence interval

List of Supporting Information

Figure S1: Translation of search terms across databases

Table S1: Data extraction protocol

Figure S2: Adapted Newcastle-Ottawa Scale

Table S2: Screening: systematic review reference lists screened, and full papers screened and excluded

Table S3: Details of included studies

Table S4: Contacting authors for additional information

Table S5: Quality scores for all included studies

Figure S3: Exploration of the use of adjusted or unadjusted data for post-term birth ( $\geq 42$  weeks and  $\geq 41$  weeks) meta-analysis

Figure S4: Sensitivity analysis for transforming Asian-specific BMI reference criteria for the analysis of maternal BMI and post-term birth ( $\geq 41$  weeks gestation) using Asian-specific BMI criteria for Leung et al 2008

Table S6: Nonlinear meta-analyses using cubic splines regression

Table S7: Egger's test for publication bias for post-term birth:  $\geq 42$  weeks and  $\geq 41$  weeks

Table S8: Maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks sensitivity analysis

Table S9: Maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks sensitivity analysis

Figure S5: Nonlinear dose-response analysis for maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks, including all studies

Table S10: Meta-regression results for post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks

Table S11: Meta-regression results for post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks

References: Reference list for the supporting information

**Figure S1: Translation of search terms across databases****Embase (OVID) 1974 to 2015 Week 21**

1. \*Pregnancy/
2. Pregnanc\$. ti,ab.
3. Matern\$. ti,ab.
4. Obes\$. ti,ab.
5. (Body adj1 composition). ti,ab.
6. (BMI or Body mass index).ti,ab.
7. Weight.ti,ab.
8. (Post adj1 term\$).mp.
9. Postterm\$.mp.
10. (Post adj1 date\$).mp.
11. Postdate\$.mp.
12. (Prolonged adj1 pregnanc\$).mp.
13. (Fetomaternal adj1 morbidity).mp.
14. Gestation.mp.
15. Postmaturity.mp.
16. (Post adj1 maturity).mp.
17. Cohort studies/ or longitudinal studies/ or follow-up studies/ or prospective studies/ or retrospective studies/ or cohort.ti,ab. or longitudinal.ti,ab. or prospective.ti,ab. or retrospective.ti,ab.
18. Case-Control Studies/ or Control Groups/ or Matched-Pair Analysis/ or ((case\* adj5 control\*) or (case adj3 comparison\*) or control group\*).ti,ab.
19. Cross-Sectional Studies/ or cross-sectional.ti,ab. or ("prevalence study" or "incidence study" or "prevalence studies" or "incidence studies" or "transversal studies" or "transversal study").ti,ab.
20. 1 or 2 or 3
21. 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
22. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16
23. 17 or 18 or 19
24. 20 and 21 and 22 and 23
25. Limit 24 to human
26. Limit 25 to female
27. \*Body Mass Index/
28. exp Overweight/
29. \*Obesity/ or \*Obesity, Morbid/
30. 21 or 27 or 28 or 29
31. \*prolonged pregnancy/
32. \*pregnancy outcome/
33. \*pregnancy complication/
34. 22 or 31 or 32 or 33
35. 20 and 23 and 30 and 34
36. 35 not 24
37. Limit 36 to human
38. Limit 37 to female

Note: .mp.=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword

**PsycINFO (OVID) 1806 to May Week 3 2015**

1. \*Pregnancy/
2. Pregnanc\$. ti,ab.
3. Matern\$. ti,ab.
4. Obes\$. ti,ab.
5. (Body adj1 composition). ti,ab.
6. (BMI or Body mass index).ti,ab.
7. Weight.ti,ab.
8. (Post adj1 term\$).mp.
9. Postterm\$.mp.
10. (Post adj1 date\$).mp.
11. Postdate\$.mp.
12. (Prolonged adj1 pregnanc\$).mp.
13. (Fetomaternal adj1 morbidity).mp.

- 14. Gestation.mp.
- 15. Postmaturity.mp.
- 16. (Post adj1 maturity).mp.
- 17. Cohort studies/ or longitudinal studies/ or follow-up studies/ or prospective studies/ or retrospective studies/ or cohort.ti,ab. or longitudinal.ti,ab. or prospective.ti,ab. or retrospective.ti,ab.
- 18. Case-Control Studies/ or Control Groups/ or Matched-Pair Analysis/ or ((case\* adj5 control\*) or (case adj3 comparison\*) or control group\*).ti,ab.
- 19. Cross-Sectional Studies/ or cross-sectional.ti,ab. or ("prevalence study" or "incidence study" or "prevalence studies" or "incidence studies" or "transversal studies" or "transversal study").ti,ab.
- 20. 1 or 2 or 3
- 21. 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
- 22. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16
- 23. 17 or 18 or 19
- 24. 20 and 21 and 22 and 23
- 25. Limit 24 to human
- 26. Limit 25 to female
- 27. \*Body Mass Index/
- 28. Exp Overweight/
- 29. \*Obesity/ or \*Obesity, Morbid/
- 30. 21 or 27 or 28 or 29
- 31. \*obstetrical complications/
- 32. \*pregnancy outcomes/
- 33. 22 or 31 or 32
- 34. 20 and 23 and 30 and 33
- 35. 34 not 24
- 36. Limit 36 to human
- 37. Limit 37 to female

Note:.mp.=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests and measures

**CINAHL (EBSCO) 1981-May 2015**

- 1 MM pregnancy OR TI pregnan\* OR TI matern\* OR AB pregnan\* OR AB matern\*
- 2 MM body mass index OR MM obesity OR MH overweight+ OR TI obes\* OR AB obes\* OR TI body w1 composition OR AB body w1 composition OR TI bmi OR AB bmi OR TI body mass index OR AB body mass index
- 3 TI weight OR AB weight
- 4 2 OR 3
- 5 TX ( post term\* or postterm\* ) OR TX ( (post w1 date\*) or postdate\* ) OR TX prolonged w1 pregnan\* OR TX fetomaternal w1 morbidity OR TX gestation OR TX postmaturity OR TX post w1 maturity OR MM "infant, postmature" OR MM "pregnancy outcomes" OR MM "pregnancy complications"
- 6 (MH "prospective studies") OR (MH "case control studies+") OR (MH "correlational studies") OR (MH "nonconcurrent prospective studies") OR (MH "cross sectional studies")
- 7 TX (cohort w1 (study or studies))
- 8 TX (observational w1 (study or studies))
- 9 6 OR 7 OR 8
- 10 1 AND 4 AND 5 AND 9

**British Nursing Index (NHS HDAS) 1992-May 2015**

- 1. (pregnan\* OR matern\*).ti,ab.
- 2. PREGNANCY/
- 3. 1 or 2
- 4. (obes\* OR (body adj1 composition) OR bmi OR (body mass index) OR weight).ti,ab.
- 5. OBESITY/
- 6. 4 OR 5
- 7. (postterm\* OR (post adj1 term) OR postdate\* OR (post adj1 date\*) OR (prolonged adj1 pregnan\*) OR (fetomaternal adj1 morbidity) OR gestation OR postmaturity OR (post adj maturity)).af
- 8. PREGNANCY : COMPLICATIONS/
- 9. 7 OR 8
- 10.3 AND 6 AND 9

**Table S1: Data extraction protocol**

Reviewer	
Title	
Author and Year	
Setting	Location (region/city, country): Study name or dataset:
Data collection time period	
Endpoint and definition	Reference group: ..... weeks gestation Postdate birth 1: ..... weeks gestation Postdate birth 2: ..... weeks gestation Postdate birth 3: ..... weeks gestation
Author definition of gestation at delivery	
Exposure definition	BMI used to define groups? Yes / No Reference group defined as: .....Kg/m <sup>2</sup> BMI group(s) defined as: Underweight: ..... Kg/m <sup>2</sup> Overweight: ..... Kg/m <sup>2</sup> Obese group 1: ..... Kg/m <sup>2</sup> Obese group 2: ..... Kg/m <sup>2</sup> Obese group 3: ..... Kg/m <sup>2</sup> Obese group 4: ..... Kg/m <sup>2</sup>

**Methodology:** ☐ Prospective Cohort ☐ Retrospective Cohort ☐ Case Control

	Total group	Reference group	Under weight	Over weight	Obese group 1	Obese group 2	Obese group 3	Obese group 4
Number Identified								
Number Excluded								
Final Number Included								
All Subjects Accounted for?	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear	Yes No Unclear

Inclusion criteria (e.g. gestation at weight measurement, singleton etc)	
Exclusion criteria	

Group Determination – measure of maternal BMI	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured	<input type="checkbox"/> Self Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively collected for the study	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Ascertainment of Outcome – gestation at delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured	<input type="checkbox"/> Self Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively collected for the study	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclear

**Baseline Characteristics reported? Yes / No** (if no do not complete, if yes populate with the data)

Characteristic (include definition and unit of measurement)	Total group	Reference group	Under weight	Over weight	Obese group 1	Obese group 2	Obese group 3	Obese group 4	P value
Maternal Age									
Gestational Age at Booking									
Ethnicity									



Baseline BMI									
Smoking Status									
Illicit Drug Use									
Alcohol Intake									
Socio-Economic Status									
Parity									
Singleton Gestation									
Description of any differences between BMI groups:									

Data Analysis:

	Number			Crude RR / OR (delete as applicable)	.....% CI	P value	Adjusted RR / OR (delete as applicable)	.....% CI	P value	Factors adjusted for in analyses:
Outcome:		yes	no	Total						
Postdate pregnancy .....wks	Reference group									
	Under weight									
	Over weight									
	Obese									Data Analysis methods:
	Obese group 2									
	Obese group 3									
	Obese group 4									

**Figure S2: Adapted Newcastle-Ottawa Scale <sup>1</sup> for Cohort Studies<sup>#</sup>****Selection**

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort (exposure in this context is maternal BMI risk group, e.g. obesity)
  - a) truly representative of the average pregnant population in the community \*
  - b) somewhat representative of the average pregnant population in the community \*
  - c) selected group of users (eg only first time pregnancy, only teenage pregnancy etc)
  - d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Selection of the non exposed cohort (non-exposure is the maternal BMI group used as reference e.g. recommended BMI)
  - a) drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort\*
  - b) drawn from a different source (E.g. different maternity unit, different specialist clinic, different time range for recruitment between BMI groups)
  - c) no description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort
- 3) Ascertainment of exposure (maternal weight status)
  - a) secure record \* (Measured weight used)
  - b) validated self-report \* (self-report with measured weight validation)
  - c) self report
  - d) no description
- 4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study <sup>##</sup>
  - a) yes \*
  - b) no

**Comparability**

- 4) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis
  - a) study controls for induction of labour or caesarean \* (either excluded or adjusted)
  - b) study controls for any additional factor \*
  - c) no factors controlled for

**Outcome**

- 5) Assessment of outcome (outcome is gestational age at delivery)
  - a) independent blind assessment/measured \* (e.g. measurement (ultrasound scan) carried out prospectively for research purposes)
  - b) record linkage/measured \* (e.g. retrospective routine hospital records of ultrasound scan to confirm gestational age)
  - c) self report (e.g. last menstrual period)
  - d) no description
- 6) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur (until spontaneous onset of labour before post-term definition)
  - a) yes \*
  - b) no
- 7) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts
  - a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for \*
  - b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost to follow up >80 % (select an adequate %), or description provided of those lost \*
  - c) follow up rate < 80% and no description of those lost
  - d) no statement

**Total number of stars (out of a possible 8<sup>###</sup>):****Notes:**

**#** There were no true case control studies included in the systematic review where the case and control status was defined based on the case definition of the outcome variable (i.e. gestational age at delivery). Those studies which had been described by authors as case control, or that followed a case control method of selecting "cases" and "controls" (n=4) used the exposure status (BMI) to allocate case or control status. Therefore these studies used the pre/early pregnancy baseline exposure status to define the groups and followed the women for the duration of their pregnancy until birth to ascertain delivery outcomes (either prospectively or retrospectively). These study designs better fit the cohort design Quality Assessment Scale and therefore this has been used for all included studies.

**##** Question 4 "Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study" is not applicable to gestational age at delivery outcomes as women are identified in early pregnancy using their pre/early pregnancy BMI and their pregnancy outcomes are not known at the start of the study. Therefore this item has been removed from the scale

**###** The denominator value for the maximum number of stars a study can be awarded has been reduced from 9 to 8 due to the removal of the original question 4.

**Table S2: Screening: systematic review reference lists screened, and full papers screened and excluded**

**Table S2a: Reference lists of systematic reviews screened**

Review	Number of references screened
Bogaerts et al 2013 <sup>2</sup>	70
Castro and Avina 2002 <sup>3</sup>	31
Catalano and Ehrenberg 2006 <sup>4</sup>	55
Caughey et al 2008 <sup>5</sup>	99
Gülmezoglu et al 2012 <sup>6</sup>	137
Heslehurst et al 2008 <sup>7</sup>	85
Linne 2004 <sup>8</sup>	93
Lutsiv et al 2015 <sup>9</sup>	94
McDonald et al 2010 <sup>10</sup>	102
Nuthulapaty and Rouse 2004 <sup>11</sup>	97
Torloni et al 2009 <sup>12</sup>	77
Vasudevan et al 2011 <sup>13</sup>	50
Walker and Gan 2015 <sup>14</sup>	8
Wolfe 1998 <sup>15</sup>	10

**Table S2b: Full details of studies excluded following full paper review**

References of studies screened in full and excluded	
Exclusion Reason	Reference Number
Abstract/poster only	1-18
Abstract authors contacted	1-5, 8-18
Unable to contact	6-7
BMI at term/late pregnancy	19-22
BMI not an exposure	23-32
Multiple gestations only	33
Not post term	34-142
Not primary research	143-159
Restricted subsample of maternity population	160-169
Unpublished student dissertation	170
Reference list of excluded studies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cidade, D. G., P. R. Margotto, A. C. B. S. Guedes, A. A. Rocha, F. R. Assis, F. F. Cardoso, R. C. R. Lemes, V. T. M. Borges and J. C. Peracoli (2012). "High prevalence of pre-pregnancy overweight and obesity associated with maternal and perinatal complications." <i>Pregnancy Hypertension</i> 2 (3): 323.</li><li>2. Darsareh, F. and S. Nourbakhsh (2012). "Pre-pregnancy body mass index and the risk of prolonged pregnancy." <i>International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics</i> 119: S756.</li><li>3. Guariglia, L., P. Ciliberti, S. Buongiorno, A. Alessio, E. Nobili, M. Tintoni, P. Rosati and G. Capelli (2013). "Risk factors in prolonged pregnancy." <i>Journal of Perinatal Medicine</i> 41.</li><li>4. Hallaron, D. R., N. Marshall, Y. W. Cheng and A. B. Caughey (2012). "Effect of obesity on induction across gestational age." <i>American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology</i> 1): S250.</li><li>5. Idris, N. and K. N. C. Nyan (2012). "The association of maternal obesity and gestational weight gain with obstetric and neonatal outcomes among parturients in Seremban, Malaysia." <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> 119: 75.</li><li>6. Kapoor, D. and S. Rajendran (2013). "Can we improve care and outcomes of pregnancy in women with morbid obesity?" <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> 120: 30-31.</li><li>7. Kapoor, D., J. Davison and S. Rajendran (2013). "Audit on care and outcome of pregnancy in women with morbid obesity." <i>Archives of Disease in Childhood: Fetal and Neonatal Edition</i> 98.</li><li>8. Lam, S., L. Kindinger and L. Phelan (2012). "Weight gain in pregnancy." <i>Archives of Disease in Childhood: Fetal and Neonatal Edition</i> 97: A114.</li><li>9. Marshall, N. E., C. Guild, Y. W. Cheng, A. B. Caughey and D. R. Halloran (2012). "Impact of maternal BMI on induction of labor." <i>American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology</i> 1): S147.</li><li>10. Marshall, N. E., J. M. Snowden, P. F. O'Tierney-Ginn, K. Melsap, J. Chung, E. Main, W. Gilbert and A. B. Caughey (2013). "Influence of fetal sex, maternal obesity, and gestational weight gain on perinatal outcomes." <i>Reproductive Sciences</i> 1): 309A-310A.</li><li>11. Martin, K., R. M. Grivell, L. N. Yelland and J. M. Dodd (2013). "Gestational diabetes mellitus among women who are overweight and obese: The effect of BMI category." <i>Obesity Research and Clinical Practice</i> 7: 11.</li></ol>	

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Table S3: Details of included studies as reported in the original papers

Author, publication year, region, country	Methodology	Number of participants: number of cases <sup>1</sup>	Study period	Assessment of weight status	Assessment of gestational age	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Participants per BMI category	Cases per BMI category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Variables included in adjusted analyses
Abenham et al 2007 <sup>16</sup> Canada	Retrospective Cohort	18,633: not reported	04/1987 - 03/1997	Pre-pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported <sup>#</sup>	Not reported	>37-42 * >42	20-24.9 * <19.9 25-29.9 30-39.9 >40	10,015 4,310 3,067 1,137 104	Not reported	Not reported	1(1) 1.07 (0.86-1.33) 1.13 (0.89-1.45) 0.84 (0.55-1.28) 0.76 (0.19-3.10)	Maternal Age Parity Smoking Pre-existing diabetes
Al-Rayyan et al 2010 <sup>17</sup> Jordan	Retrospective Cohort	901:109	01/1990 - 12/2000	Early pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	37-41 * >42	<30 * ≥30.0	461 440	55 54	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Arora et al 2013 <sup>18</sup> Thailand	Retrospective Cohort	4,764:32	02/2011 - 08/2012	Pre-pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported <sup>#</sup>	Not reported	37-41 * 42	18.5-24.9* <18.5 25-29.9 ≥30	3,129 912 535 188	19 7 5 1	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Arrowsmith et al 2011 <sup>19</sup> UK	Retrospective Cohort	20,599: Not reported	01/2004 - 12/2008	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS	37-41* <sup>2</sup> * 41* <sup>3</sup>	20-24.9* <19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 >40	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	1(1) 0.75 (0.66-0.85) 1.24 (1.14-1.34) 1.52 (1.37-1.70) 1.75 (1.48-2.07) 2.27 (1.78-2.86)	Maternal age Race Parity Hypertension Diabetes mellitus Smoking
Basu et al 2010 <sup>20</sup> South Africa	Retrospective Cohort	738:132	02/2006 and 09/2006	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS + LMP	37-41 * >41	18.5-24.9* 25-29.9 30-39.9 >40	139 273 288 38	18 54 49 11	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Bhattacharya 2007 <sup>21</sup> UK	Retrospective Cohort	21,511:1,374	1976-2005	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS + LMP	37-41 * >41	20-24.9* <19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 >35	12,539 2,497 4,735 1,615 125	773 108 350 136 7	1 (1) 0.7 (0.6-0.8) 1.2 (1.1-1.3) 1.4 (1.1-1.6) 0.8 (0.4-1.7)	1 (1) 0.9 (0.7-1.1) 0.9 (0.8-1.1) 0.9 (0.7-1.1) 0.8 (0.4-1.8)	Relevant sociodemographic characteristics Year of delivery.
Briese et al 2011 <sup>22</sup> Germany	Retrospective Cohort	Not reported	1998-2000	BMI, method of assessment not reported	Not reported	Not reported	18.5-24.9 ≥30	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	1 (1) 1.45 (1.38-1.52)	Age Smoking status Single mother status Education Only included primiparous women
Caughey et al 2009 <sup>23</sup> USA	Retrospective Cohort	Not reported	01/1995 - 12/1999	BMI, method of assessment not reported	Not reported	37-<41* ≥41  37-<42* ≥42	Not obese * Obese (BMI not defined)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	1 (1) 1.29 (1.18, 1.40)  1 (1) 1.20 (0.99, 1.46)	Excluding chronic hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and gestational diabetes mellitus. Controlling for paternal race/ethnicity.

Author, publication year, region, country	Methodology	Number of participants: number of cases <sup>1</sup>	Study period	Assessment of weight status	Assessment of gestational age	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Participants per BMI category	Cases per BMI category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Variables included in adjusted analyses
Cedergren 2004 <sup>24</sup> Sweden	Retrospective Cohort	580,970: 45,288	01/1992 - 12/2001	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS	37-41 <sup>†b</sup> * ≥42	19.8-26 <sup>+</sup> 29.1-35 35.1-40 ≥40	501,954 64,286 11,605 3,125	37,640 6,072 1,197 379	Not reported	1 (1) 1.37 (1.33-1.41) 1.49 (1.40-1.58) 1.80 (1.62-2.01)	Maternal age Parity Smoking Year of birth
Denison et al 2008 <sup>25</sup> Sweden	Retrospective Cohort	143,519:9,759	1998-2002	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS + LMP	37-41 <sup>†b</sup> * ≥42	20-25 <sup>+</sup> ≤20 25-≤30 30-≤35 ≥35	84,963 18,227 30,139 7,463 2,440	Not reported	Term median BMI 22.9 (IQR 21.0–25.3) Postdate median BMI 23.4 (IQR 21.5–26.0) p<0.0001	Not reported	N/A
El-Gilany and Hammad 2010 <sup>26</sup> Saudi Arabia	Prospective Cohort	787:22	01/2007-12/2007	Early pregnancy measured BMI	LMP	37-42 * ≥42	18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> ≤18.5 25-29.9 ≥30	307 67 187 226	4 2 5 11	RR (95% CI) 1 (1) 2.3 (0.4-12.3) 2.0 (0.6-7.1) 3.7 (1.2-11.6)	Not reported	N/A
Halloran et al 2012 <sup>27</sup> USA	Retrospective Cohort	267,126: 51,420  267,126: 13,392	2000-2006	Self-report pre-pregnancy BMI	Clinical measurement	37-40 * =41  =42	18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> ≤18.5 25-29.9 ≥30  18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> ≤18.5 25-29.9 ≥30	180,056 19,354 76,792 62,924  180,056 19,354 76,792 62,924	26,487 2,783 11,794 10,356  6,866 853 2,997 2,676	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Johnson et al 1992 <sup>28</sup> USA	Retrospective Cohort	3,203:314	01/1987-12/1989	Self-report pre-pregnancy BMI	USS	38-42 * ≥42	<19.8 <sup>+</sup> 19.8-26 27-29 ≥29	755 1,633 329 486	61 157 40 56	1 (1) 1.22 (0.89-1.66) 1.58 (1.03-2.4) 1.49 (1.01-2.2)	Not reported	N/A
Khashan and Kenny 2009 <sup>29</sup> UK	Retrospective Cohort	89,513:4,706	01/2004-12/2006	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS + LMP	Not reported <sup>†</sup> ≥41	18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> ≤18.5 25-29.9 30-40 ≥40	42,147 2325 23,757 13,386 1,543	2,213 99 1,404 897 93	1 (1) 0.79 (0.65-0.96) 1.13 (1.06-1.21) 1.28 (1.19-1.38) 1.17 (0.95-1.43)	1 (1) 0.81 (0.67-0.99) 1.17 (1.09-1.25) 1.35 (1.25-1.45) 1.24 (1.02-1.52)	Maternal age Parity Race
Kistka et al 2007 <sup>30</sup> USA	Retrospective Cohort	368,633:Not reported	1989-1997	BMI, method of assessment not reported	Not reported	37-41+6 * ≥42	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> ≤20 ≥35	Not reported	Not reported	1 (1) 0.90 (0.88-0.93) 1.25 (1.19-1.32)	1 (1) 0.85 (0.82-0.87) 1.23 (1.16-1.29)	Socioeconomic status Maternal medical risk factors Year of delivery
Kitiyodom and Tongswatwong 2008 <sup>31</sup> Thailand	Retrospective Cohort	1,350:166	10/2004-09/2006	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS + LMP	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> Post-term not defined	20-24.9 <sup>+</sup> ≥25	1,020 330	110 56	1 (1) 1.7 (1.19-2.44)	Not reported	N/A
Knight et al 2010 <sup>32</sup> UK	Prospective Cohort	1,280:56	09/2007-08/2008	Pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> ≥42	<50 <sup>+</sup> ≥50	630 650	24 32	1 (1) 1.31 (0.76-2.25)	1 (1) 1.35 (0.77-2.37)	Maternal age Parity Socioeconomic status Ethnicity Smoking



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Author, publication year, region, country	Methodology	Number of participants: number of cases <sup>1</sup>	Study period	Assessment of weight status	Assessment of gestational age	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Participants per BMI category	Cases per BMI category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Variables included in adjusted analyses
Konje et al 1993 <sup>33</sup> UK	Case Control	760:14	01/1989-06/1990	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS	37-42 * >42	17-24 <sup>+</sup> 30.4-53.0	299 461	11 3	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Leung et al 2008 <sup>34</sup> Hong Kong	Retrospective Cohort	27,372:4,118	01/1995-12/2005	Early pregnancy BMI	Not reported	37-40+6 * ≥41	18.5-<23 <sup>+</sup> <18.5 ≥23-<25 ≥25-<27.5 ≥27.5-<30 ≥30	16,303 2,434 4,346 2,617 1,062 610	2,430 322 654 429 175 108	Not reported	1 (1) 0.84 (0.74-0.95) 1.06 (0.97-1.17) 1.21 (1.08-1.36) 1.25 (1.05-1.48) 1.34 (1.09-1.66)	Only included Chinese ethnicity. Adjusted for confounding factors, not specified.
Lumme et al 1995 <sup>35</sup> Finland	Prospective Cohort	8,719:439	07/1985-06/1986	Early pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	37-41 * >41	19-24.9 <sup>+</sup> <19 25-29.9 ≥30	1,037 6,173 1,177 332	136 228 63 12	Not reported	1 (1) 1.0 (0.7-1.4) 1.6 (1.2-2.1) 1.1 (0.6-1.9)	Maternal age Parity Education Smoking Diabetic and Hypertensive complications
Mancuso et al 1991 <sup>36</sup> Italy	Case Control	138:4	Not reported	Self-report pre-pregnancy BMI	Not reported	38-41 * >42	15.2-26.6 <sup>+</sup> >30	82 56	1 3	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Manzanares et al 2012 <sup>37</sup> Spain	Case Control	2,714:196	2007-2009	Early pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	37-41 <sup>+2</sup> * >41 <sup>+3</sup>	18.5-25 <sup>+</sup> <18.5 >35	2,341 147 226	174 12 10	Not reported	1 (1) 0.81 (0.35-1.91) 0.72 (0.34-1.55)	Maternal age Parity Hypertension Diabetes
Morgan et al 2014 <sup>38</sup> UK	Prospective Cohort	440:28	11/2010-02/2013	Pre-pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported <sup>#</sup>	USS	Reference not defined <sup>+</sup> =42	18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> 25-29.9 >29.9	234 206	10 18	1 (1) 2.18 (0.99-4.84)	Not reported	N/A
Navid et al 2013 <sup>39</sup> Pakistan	Case Control	200:57	05/2011 - 07/2012	Early pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported	USS	37-40* >40	18-24.9 <sup>+</sup> 25-35	100 100	25 32	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Nohr et al 2009 <sup>40</sup> Denmark	Prospective Cohort	4,700:1,541	1996-2002	Self-reported pre-pregnancy BMI	Not reported	37-41* >41	15-33.3 <sup>+</sup> 32.6-<35 35-<37.5 ≥37.5	2,354 853 721 770	688 292 277 283	Not reported	1 (1) 1.3 (1.1-1.5) 1.5 (1.3-1.8) 1.4 (1.2-1.7)	Age Parity Maternal height Smoking Alcohol consumption Physical exercise Social group
Olesen et al 2006 <sup>41</sup> Denmark	Retrospective Cohort	47,338:5,227	1996-2004	BMI –self reported	LMP + USS	37- 41 <sup>+6</sup> * ≥42	20-24 <sup>+</sup> <20 25-29 30-34 ≥35	26,486 7,918 9,201 2,713 1,020	2,800 736 1,165 374 152	1 0.87 1.23 1.35 1.48 95%CI not reported	1 (1) 0.87 (0.80-0.94) 1.24 (1.15-1.34) 1.37 (1.22-1.54) 1.52 (1.28-1.82)	Maternal age Parity

Author, publication year, region, country	Methodology	Number of participants: number of cases <sup>1</sup>	Study period	Assessment of weight status	Assessment of gestational age	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Participants per BMI category	Cases per BMI category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Variables included in adjusted analyses
Raatikainen et al 2006 <sup>42</sup> Finland	Retrospective Cohort	25,601:1,233	01/1989 - 12/2001	Early pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	Reference not defined + >42	≤25 <sup>+</sup> 26-29 ≥30	20,333 3,388 1,880	935 193 105	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Robinson et al 2005 <sup>43</sup> Canada	Retrospective Cohort	84,055:5,689	01/1988 - 12/1992	Pre-pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported <sup>#</sup>	Not reported	Reference not defined + >41	55-75Kg <sup>+</sup> ≥90-120Kg >120Kg	74,566 8,774 715	4,997 647 45	1 (1) 1.10 (1.01-1.20) 0.91 (0.67-1.23)	1 (1) 1.18 (1.08-1.28) 0.99 (0.74-1.34)	Maternal age Marital status Parity Smoking Socioeconomic status
Rode et al 2005 <sup>44</sup> Denmark	Prospective Cohort	8,463:Not reported	1998 - 2001	Self-report pre-pregnancy BMI	USS	37-42* >42	<25 <sup>+</sup> 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	1 (1) 1.4 (1.2-1.7) 1.4 (1.1-1.9)	Maternal age Smoking Ethnic background Type of conception
Roos et al 2010 <sup>45</sup> Sweden	Retrospective Cohort	972,883:85,488	01/1992 - 12/2006	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS + LMP	37-41+6* ≥42	20-24.9* <20 25-29.9 ≥30	560,667 105,643 224,550 82,013	46,323 6,486 22,834 9,845	Not reported	1 (1) 0.74 (0.72-0.76) 1.31 (1.29-1.33) 1.63 (1.59-1.67)	Maternal age Parity Education BMI Smoking Country of origin Mother living with father
Schrauwers and Dekker 2009 <sup>46</sup> Australia	Retrospective Cohort	348:3	01/2006 - 06/2006	Early pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported	Not reported	37-41* >41	19.1-25* 25.1-30 30.1-40 >40	93 92 108 55	0 1 2 0	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Scott-Pillai et al 2013 <sup>47</sup> UK	Retrospective Cohort	30,298:Not reported	2004-2011	Early pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	Reference not defined + >41	18.5-24.99* <18.50 25-29.99 30-34.99 35-39.99 ≥40	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	1 (1) 0.5 (0.2-1.0) 0.9 (0.7-1.1) 0.8 (0.5-1.1) 0.9 (0.5-1.6) 0.8 (0.4-1.7)	Age Parity Year of birth Social deprivation Smoking
Sharief and Tarik 2000 <sup>48</sup> Iraq	Prospective Cohort	40:6	12/1997-08/1998	Early pregnancy measured weight	Not reported	Reference not defined + Post-term not defined	≤90Kg >90Kg	20 20	3 3	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Stotland et al 2007 <sup>49</sup> USA	Retrospective Cohort	10,878:2,402  10,878:595	1990-2001	Self-report pre-pregnancy BMI	USS + LMP	37-<41* ≥41  37-<42* ≥42	19.8-26* <19.8 26.1-29 >29	6,477 2,171 1,213 1,017  6,477 2,171 1,213 1,017	1,418 397 297 290  350 83 89 73	Not reported	1 (1) 0.83 (0.72-0.95) 1.29 (1.10-1.52) 1.81 (1.50-2.18)  1 (1) 0.78 (0.60-1.01) 1.51 (1.15-1.97) 1.69 (1.23-2.31)	Maternal age Ethnicity Parity Gestational weight gain Insurance status Hypertension Diabetes Smoking
Usha Kiran et al 2005 <sup>50</sup> UK	Retrospective Cohort	8,350:2,768	1990-1999	Early pregnancy measured BMI	USS	37-41* >41	20-30* >30	7,673 677	2,490 278	1 (1) 1.4 (1.2-1.7)	Not reported	N/A



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Author, publication year, region, country	Methodology	Number of participants: number of cases <sup>1</sup>	Study period	Assessment of weight status	Assessment of gestational age	Gestational age groups (weeks)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) or weight category	Participants per BMI category	Cases per BMI category	Crude analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Adjusted analysis (OR and 95% CI unless otherwise specified)	Variables included in adjusted analyses
Vaswani and Balachandran 2013 <sup>51</sup> United Arab Emirates	Retrospective Cohort	1,985:147	12/2010 - 10/2011	Early pregnancy measured BMI	Not reported	37-41* >41	18.5-24.9* 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	420 635 520 280 130	20 48 43 24 12	Not reported	1 (1) 1.54 (0.89-2.65) 1.69 (0.96-2.98) 1.78 (0.93-3.42) 2.99 (1.35-6.65)	Age Parity Hypertension Diabetes
Vinturache et al 2014 <sup>52</sup> Canada	Prospective Cohort	1,996:5	05/2008 - 12/2010	Self-report pre-pregnancy BMI	Not reported	37-41 <sup>†b</sup> * ≥42	18.5-24.99* 25-29.99 ≥30	1,313 472 211	4 1 0	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Voigt et al 2008 <sup>53</sup> Germany	Retrospective Cohort	303,960: 34,266	1998-2000	Pre-pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported <sup>#</sup>	Not reported	Term, not defined <sup>+</sup> Post-term, not defined	18.5-24.99* 40-44.99 ≥45	300,299 2,946 715	33,703 452 111	Not reported	Not reported	N/A
Yazdani et al 2006 <sup>54</sup> Iran	Retrospective Cohort	966:33	2008-2009	Early pregnancy BMI, method of assessment not reported	USS + LMP	Term, not defined <sup>+</sup> Post-term, not defined	20-24.9* ≤19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 ≥35	403 126 340 92 5	14 4 12 3 0	Not reported	Not reported	N/A

Footnote: <sup>1</sup> In studies which presented data for preterm, term and post-term births, the numbers of participants and cases were calculated following exclusion of pre-term births when possible. <sup>#</sup>Weight assessment is presumed to be self-reported as pre-pregnancy BMI was used, although this was not explicitly stated. <sup>+</sup> Reference group for BMI. \* Reference group for gestational age. Abbreviations: BMI = body mass index; CI = confidence interval; IQR = inter quartile range; LMP = last menstrual period; N/A = not applicable; OR = odds ratio; RR = relative risk; USS = ultrasound scan

**Table S4: Contacting authors for additional information**

Paper	Reason For Contacting	Original Data (BMI Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Original Data (Participants:Cases)	Author Response <sup>#</sup>	Definitions Provided	Data Provided (BMI Groups)	Data Provided (Participants:Cases)
Abenhaim et al 2007 <sup>16</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide frequencies for cases^</li> <li>Split BMI 30-39.9 into WHO obesity classes I and II</li> </ul>	20-24.9 <19.9 25-29.9 30-39.9 >40	10,015:not reported 4,310:not reported 3,067:not reported 1,137:not reported 104:not reported	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Al-Rayyan et al 2010 <sup>17</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide frequencies according to specified WHO BMI categories^</li> </ul>	<30 >30	461:55 440:54	No response	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Arora et al 2013 <sup>18</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide frequencies for WHO BMI categories &gt;30</li> </ul>	>30	188:1	Additional data provided	N/A	30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	159:0 35:0 9:1
Arrowsmith et al 2011 <sup>19</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide frequencies for participants and cases^</li> </ul>	20-24.9 <19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 >40	Not reported	Additional data provided	N/A	20-24.9 <sup>+</sup> <19.9 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 >40	9,374:2,193 2,002:367 5,262:1,428 2,028:634 697:234 298:123
Basu et al 2010 <sup>20</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Split BMI 30-39.9 into WHO obesity classes I and II</li> </ul>	30-39.9	298:49	No response	N/A	N/A	Not provided
Bhattacharya et al 2007 <sup>21</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition used for comparison group for gestational age</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	Definition provided	37-42	N/A	N/A
Briese et al 2011 <sup>22</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition for gestational age reference group</li> <li>Definition used for post-term</li> <li>To provide frequencies for participants and cases^</li> </ul>	18.5-24.9 ≥30	Not reported	Provided definitions. Unable to provide frequencies.	>37-<42 ≥42	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Caughey et al 2009 <sup>23</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide frequencies according to specified WHO BMI categories^</li> </ul>	Not reported	Not reported	Unable to provide data	N/A	Not provided	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Cedergren 2004 <sup>24</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide frequencies the BMI category &gt;26-29.</li> </ul>	19.8-26 29.1-35 35.1-40 >40	501,954:37,640 64,286:6,072 11,605:1,197 3,125:379	Additional data provided	N/A	26.1-29	95,675:8,381

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Paper	Reason For Contacting	Original Data (BMI Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Original Data (Participants:Cases)	Author Response <sup>#</sup>	Definitions Provided	Data Provided (BMI Groups)	Data Provided (Participants:Cases)
Denison et al 2008 <sup>25</sup>	• To provide frequencies according to specified WHO BMI categories^	20-24.9 <20 25-29.9 30-34.9 ≥35	Not reported	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
El-Gilany and Hammad 2010 <sup>26</sup>	• Split BMI ≥30 into WHO obesity classes	≥30	226:11	Additional data provided	N/A	30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	138:1 59:4 29:6
Halloran et al 2012 <sup>27</sup>	• Split BMI ≥30 into WHO obesity classes for 41 and 42 weeks gestation	<b>41</b> ≥30 <b>42</b> ≥30	62,924:10,356  62,924:2,676	Additional data provided	N/A	<b>41</b> 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40 <b>42</b> 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	35,767:5,832 16,802:2,741 10,355:1,777  35,767:1,491 16,802:743 10,355:442
Johnson et al 1992 <sup>28</sup>	• Split BMI >29 into WHO obesity classes	>29	486:56	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided
Khashan and Kenny 2009 <sup>29</sup>	• Split BMI 30-40 into WHO obesity classes • Definition of gestational age reference group	30-40	12,489:897	Additional data provided	37-<42	30-34.9 35-39.9	9,983:650 3,574:247
Kistka et al 2007 <sup>30</sup>	• Definition of BMI reference group • To provide frequency data^	Reference group not reported <20 >35	Not reported	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Kitiyodom and Tongswatwong 2008 <sup>31</sup>	• Split BMI >25 into WHO categories^ • Definition of gestational age reference group and post-term	>25	330:56	Additional data provided	37-<42 ≥42	25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	211:25 52:24 21:6 2:1
Knight et al 2010 <sup>32</sup>	• Split BMI <50 into WHO categories^ • Definition of gestational age reference group	<50	630:24	Additional data provided	37-<42	18.5-24.9 <sup>+</sup> <18.5 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	267:12 15:0 173:7 77:3 28:2 11:0

Paper	Reason For Contacting	Original Data (BMI Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Original Data (Participants:Cases)	Author Response <sup>#</sup>	Definitions Provided	Data Provided (BMI Groups)	Data Provided (Participants:Cases)
Konje et al 1993 <sup>33</sup>	• To provide frequencies for specific BMI groups >25	Not reported	299:11 461:3	Unable to provide data	N/A	Not provided	Not provided
Leung et al 2008 <sup>34</sup>	• To provide frequencies for specific BMI groups >30	≥30	610:108	No response	N/A	N/A	Not provided
Lumme et al 1995 <sup>35</sup>	• To provide frequencies for specific BMI groups >30	≥30	332:12	No response	N/A	N/A	Not provided
Mancuso et al 1991 <sup>36</sup>	• To provide frequencies according to specified WHO BMI categories <sup>^</sup>	15.2-26.6 >30	82:1 56:3	No response	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Manzanares et al 2012 <sup>37</sup>	• To provide frequencies for BMI groups 25-29.9, 30-34.9, 35-39.9, ≥40	18.5-25 >35	2,341:174 226:10	Additional data provided	N/A	25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	914:64 321:19 129:6 86:4
Morgan et al 2014 <sup>38</sup>	• To provide frequencies for BMI groups 25-29.9 • Split >29.9 into WHO obesity classes • Definition for gestational age reference group.	18.5-24.9 >29.9	234:10 206:18	Provided definition for gestational age. Unable to provide frequency data	37-<42	N/A	Not provided
Navid et al 2013 <sup>39</sup>	• Split BMI group 25-35 <sup>^</sup>	18-24.9 <sup>+</sup> 25-35	100:25 100:32	No response	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Nohr et al 2009 <sup>40</sup>	• To provide frequencies according to specified WHO BMI categories <sup>^</sup>	15-33.3 32.6-<35 35-<37.5 ≥37.5	2,354:688 853:292 721:277 770:283	Additional data provided	N/A	18.5-24.9 <18.5 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	1,261:71 87:3 332:17 677:40 731:50 272:22
Olesen et al 2006 <sup>41</sup>	• Split BMI ≥35	≥35	1,020:154	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided
Raatikainen et al 2006 <sup>42</sup>	• Split BMI ≥30 into obesity classes I-III • Definition for gestational age reference group	≤25 26-29 ≥30	20,333:935 3,388:193 1,880:105	No response	Not provided*	Not provided	Not provided

Paper	Reason For Contacting	Original Data (BMI Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Original Data (Participants:Cases)	Author Response <sup>#</sup>	Definitions Provided	Data Provided (BMI Groups)	Data Provided (Participants:Cases)
Rode et al 2005 <sup>44</sup>	• To provide frequencies of participants and cases according to specified WHO BMI categories^	<25 <sup>+</sup> 25-29.9 ≥30	Not reported	Additional data provided	N/A	18.5-24.9 <18.5 25-29.9 30-34.9 35-39.9 ≥40	5,986:567 364:25 1,298:162 326:39 81:12 37:3
Roos et al 2010 <sup>45</sup>	• Split BMI ≥30 into obesity classes I-III	≥30	82,013:9,845	Unable to provide data	N/A	Not provided	Not provided
Scott-Pillai et al 2013 <sup>47</sup>	• To provide frequencies of participants and cases^ • Definition for gestational age reference group	18.5-24.99 <18.50 25-29.99 30-34.99 35-39.99 ≥40	Not reported	Additional data provided	>37-41	18.5-24.99 <18.50 25-29.99 30-34.99 35-39.99 ≥40	15,046:3,261 803:149 7,917:1,776 3,120:667 1,121:238 541:121
Stotland et al 2007 <sup>49</sup>	• To split BMI groups >29 into obesity classes I-III for both 41 and 42 weeks gestation	41 >29  42 >29	1,017:290  1,017:73	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided
Usha Kiran et al 2005 <sup>50</sup>	• To split BMI groups 20-30 and >30 according to WHO BMI categories^	20-30 >30	7,673:2,490 677:278	Unable to provide data	N/A	N/A	Not provided <sup>l</sup>
Voigt et al 2008 <sup>53</sup>	• To provide frequencies for WHO categories between 25 and 39.9 • Definitions for gestational age reference group and post-term	18.5-24.99 <sup>+</sup> 40-44.99 ≥45	300,299:33,703 2,946:452 715:11	Provided definitions. Unable to provide frequencies.	37-<42 ≥42	Not provided	Not provided
Yazdani et al 2006 <sup>54</sup>	• Definitions for gestational age reference group and post-term	N/A	N/A	No response	Not provided*	N/A	N/A

Footnote: # Non-responding authors contacted up to three times  
^ Essential data request for inclusion in meta-analysis  
<sup>l</sup> Excluded from meta-analysis after contacting author, due to lack of essential data,  
\* Assumptions made as per methods section of manuscript.

**Table S5: Quality scores for all included studies**

Paper	Newcastle Ottawa Scale Question number and score allocated								Independent reviewer initials
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Stars	
Abenhaim et al 2007 <sup>16</sup>	a *	a *	c	b *	d	b	c	3	LC & LH
Al-Rayyan et al 2010 <sup>17</sup>	d	a *	a *	c	d	b	d	2	LC & NH
Arora et al 2013 <sup>18</sup>	b *	a *	d	c	d	b	b *	3	NH & LH
Arrowsmith et al 2011 <sup>19</sup>	a *	a *	a *	a&b**	b *	a *	b *	8	LC & NH
Basu et al 2010 <sup>20</sup>	b *	a *	d	c	b *	b	d	3	NH & LH
Bhattacharya et al 2007 <sup>21</sup>	c	a *	a *	b *	b *	b	b *	5	JR & LH
Briese et al 2011 <sup>22</sup>	a *	a *	d	b *	d	b	a *	4	LC & NH
Caughey et al 2009 <sup>23</sup>	a *	a *	d	b *	d	a *	d	4	LH & NH
Cedergren 2004 <sup>24</sup>	a *	a *	d	b *	b *	b	b *	5	NH & LH
Denison et al 2008 <sup>25</sup>	a *	a *	a *	c	b *	a *	c	5	LC & LH
El Gilany & Hammad 2010 <sup>26</sup>	a *	a *	a *	c	c		c	3	LC & LH
Halloran et al 2012 <sup>27</sup>	a *	a *	c	b *	b *	b	b *	5	LC & NH
Johnson et al 1992 <sup>28</sup>	b *	a *	c	b *	b *	b	b *	5	LC & NH
Khashan & Kenny 2009 <sup>29</sup>	a *	a *	a *	b *	b *	b	c	5	LC & NH
Kistka et al 2007 <sup>30</sup>	c	a *	d	b *	b *	b	b *	4	LH & JR
Kitiyodom & Tongswatwong 2008 <sup>31</sup>	d	a *	a *	c	b *	b	d	3	NH & RV
Knight et al 2010 <sup>32</sup>	b *	a *	d	b *	d	b	b *	4	LC & NH
Konje et al 1993 <sup>33</sup>	c	a *	a *	b *	b *	b	d	4	NH & LH
Leung et al 2008 <sup>34</sup>	a *	a *	d	b *	d	b	b *	4	LC & LH
Lumme et al 1995 <sup>35</sup>	a *	a *	b *	c	d	b	b *	4	LC & NH
Mancuso et al 1991 <sup>36</sup>	d	a *	d	c	d	b	d	1	LC & NH
Manzanares et al 2012 <sup>37</sup>	a *	a *	a *	b *	d	b	c	4	LC & NH
Morgan et al 2014 <sup>38</sup>	b *	a *	d	b *	b *	b	c	4	LC & LH
Navid et al 2013 <sup>39</sup>	d	a *	d	c	a *	b	d	2	NH & LH
Nohr et al 2009 <sup>40</sup>	b *	a *	c	b *	d	b	b *	4	NH & LH
Olesen et al 2006 <sup>41</sup>	b *	a *	c	b *	c	b	d	3	LH & LC
Raatikianen et al 2006 <sup>42</sup>	a *	a *	a *	b *	d	b	b *	5	LH & JR
Robinson et al 2005 <sup>43</sup>	a *	a *	d	b *	d	b	b *	4	NH & LH

Paper	Newcastle Ottawa Scale Question number and score allocated								Independent reviewer initials
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Stars	
Rode et al 2005 <sup>44</sup>	b *	a *	c	b *	a *	b	b *	5	NH & LC
Roos et al 2010 <sup>45</sup>	a *	a *	a *	a&b**	b *	a *	b *	8	NH & LH
Schrauwers & Dekker 2009 <sup>46</sup>	b *	a *	d	c	d	b	d	2	LH & NH
Scott-Pillai et al 2013 <sup>47</sup>	a *	a *	a *	a&b**	d	a *	b *	7	LC & NH
Sharief & Tarik 2000 <sup>48</sup>	c	a *	a *	b *	d	b	d	3	LH & NH
Stotland et al 2007 <sup>49</sup>	a *	a *	d	a&b**	b *	a *	d	6	NH & JR
Usha Kiran et al 2004 <sup>50</sup>	c	a *	a *	c	b *	b	b *	4	LC & JR
Vaswani and Balachandran 2013 <sup>51</sup>	a *	a *	a *	b *	d	b	d	4	LH & NH
Vinturache et al 2014 <sup>52</sup>	b *	a *	c	b *	d	a *	b *	5	NH & LH
Voigt et al 2008 <sup>53</sup>	a *	a *	d	c	d	b	d	2	LC & NH
Yazdani et al 2012 <sup>54</sup>	c	a *	d	c	b *	b	c	2	NH & RV

Footnote: Newcastle-Ottawa question numbers 1-7, answers a-d, and associated number of stars (\*) are detailed in fig. S2. Minimum number of possible stars to be awarded = 0, maximum number of possible stars to be awarded = 8. Reviewers initials relate to manuscript authors JR: Judith Rankin, LC: Lisa Crowe, LH: Louise Hayes, NH: Nicola Heslehurst, and RV: Rute Vieira.



### Figure S3: Exploration of the use of adjusted or unadjusted data for post-term birth ( $\geq 42$ weeks and $\geq 41$ weeks) meta-analysis

Figure S3a) Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks: unadjusted data

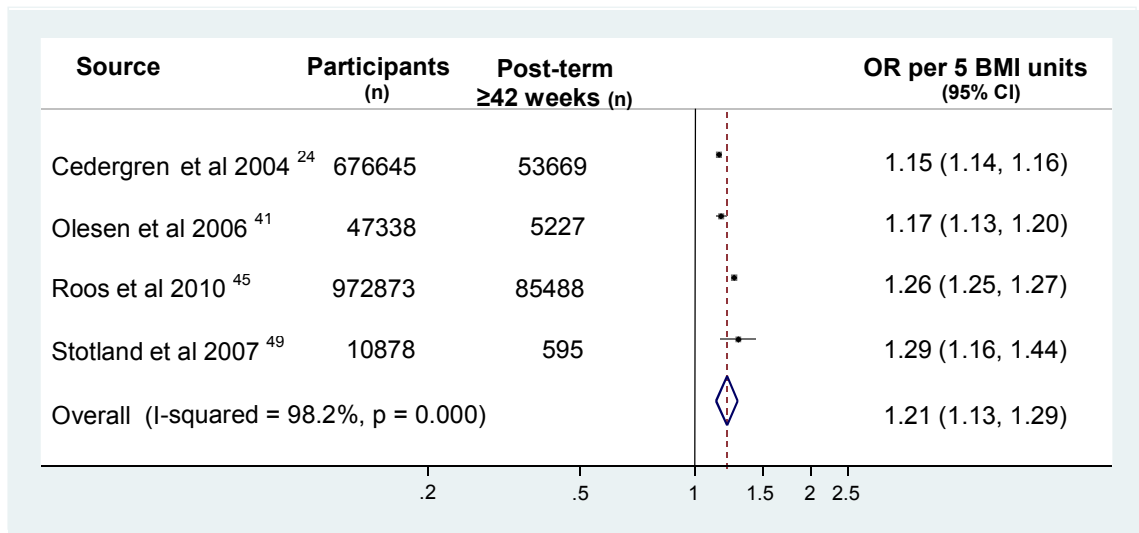


Figure legend: Meta-analysis of the four studies which provided both unadjusted and adjusted data for maternal BMI and post-term birth, showing the overall effect size (OR) and 95% confidence interval for the association when using the unadjusted data to compute the OR for the continuous BMI. Abbreviations: OR = odds ratio; BMI = body mass index; n = number of individuals.

Figure S3b) Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks: adjusted data

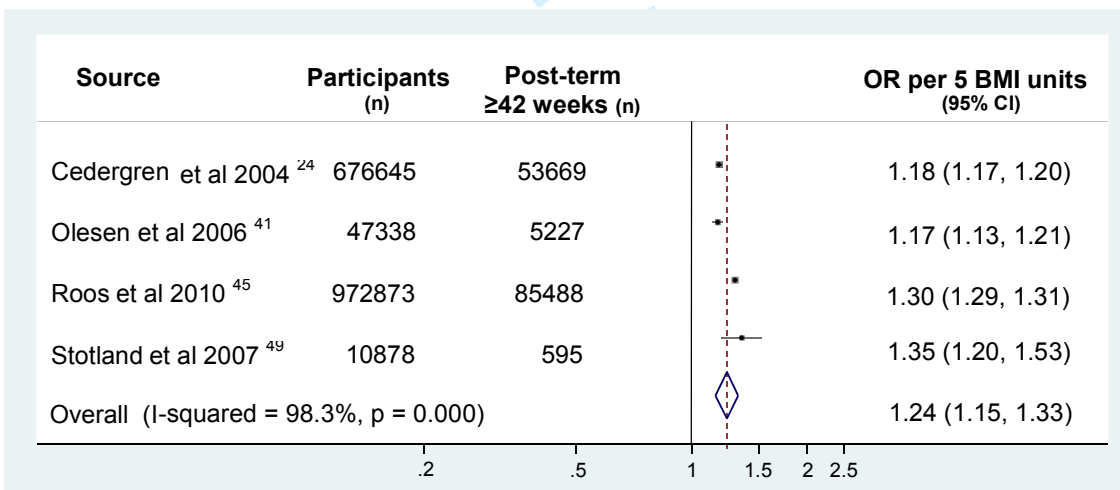


Figure legend: Meta-analysis of the four studies which provided both unadjusted and adjusted data for maternal BMI and post-term birth, showing the overall effect size (OR) and 95% confidence interval for the association when using the adjusted data to compute the OR for the continuous BMI. Abbreviations: OR = odds ratio; BMI = body mass index; n = number of individuals.

Figure S3c) Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth ≥41 weeks: unadjusted data

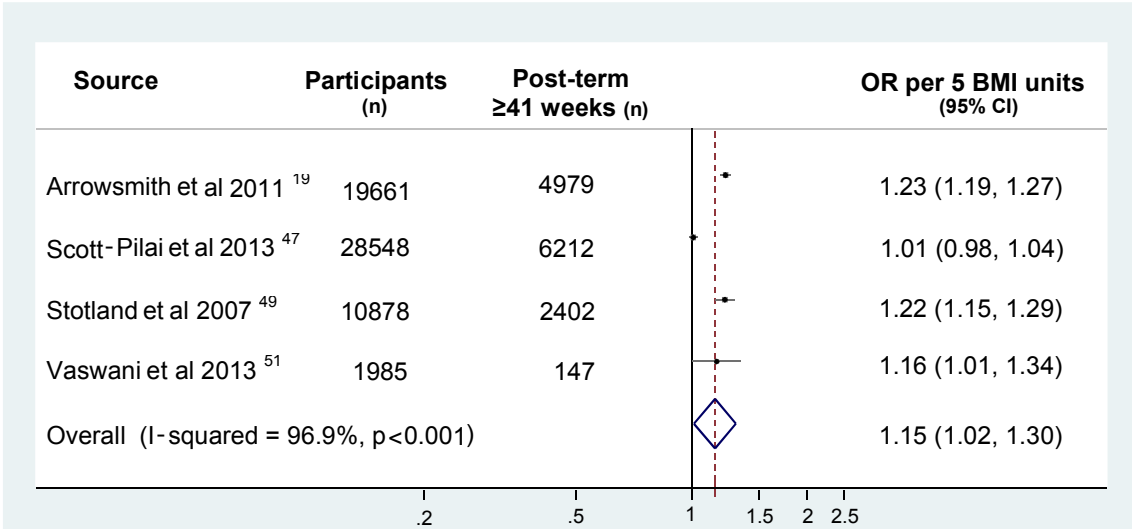


Figure legend: Meta-analysis of the four studies which provided both unadjusted and adjusted data for maternal BMI and post-term birth, showing the overall effect size (OR) and 95% confidence interval for the association when using the unadjusted data to compute the OR for the continuous BMI. Abbreviations: OR = odds ratio; BMI = body mass index; n = number of individuals.

Figure S3d) Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth ≥41 weeks: adjusted data

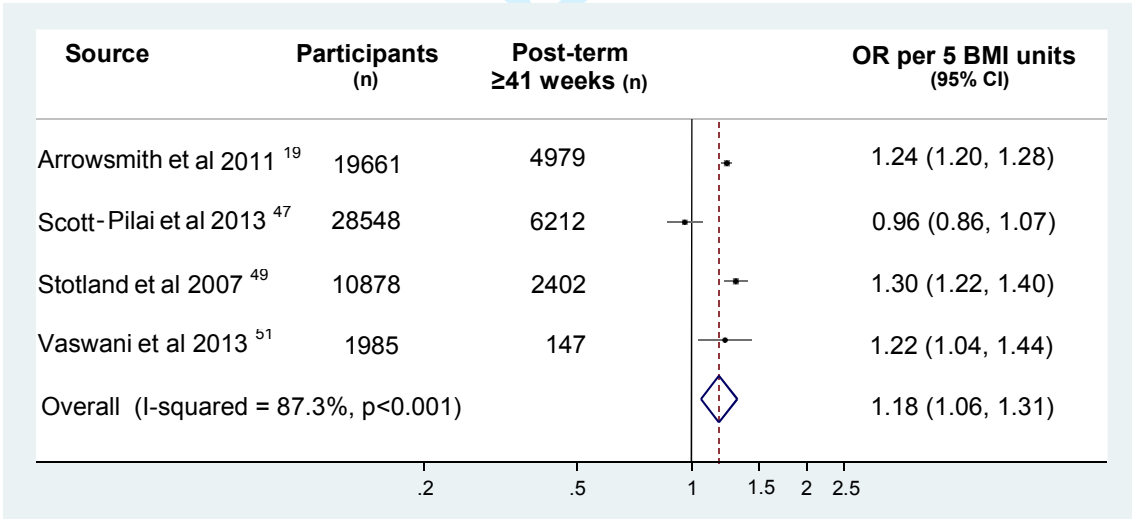


Figure legend: Meta-analysis of the four studies which provided both unadjusted and adjusted data for maternal BMI and post-term birth, showing the overall effect size (OR) and 95% confidence interval for the association when using the adjusted data to compute the OR for the continuous BMI. Abbreviations: OR = odds ratio; BMI = body mass index; n = number of individuals; CI = confidence interval.

**Figure S4: Sensitivity analysis for transforming Asian-specific BMI reference criteria for the analysis of maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks**

**Figure S4a) Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth using Asian-specific BMI criteria for Leung et al<sup>34</sup>**

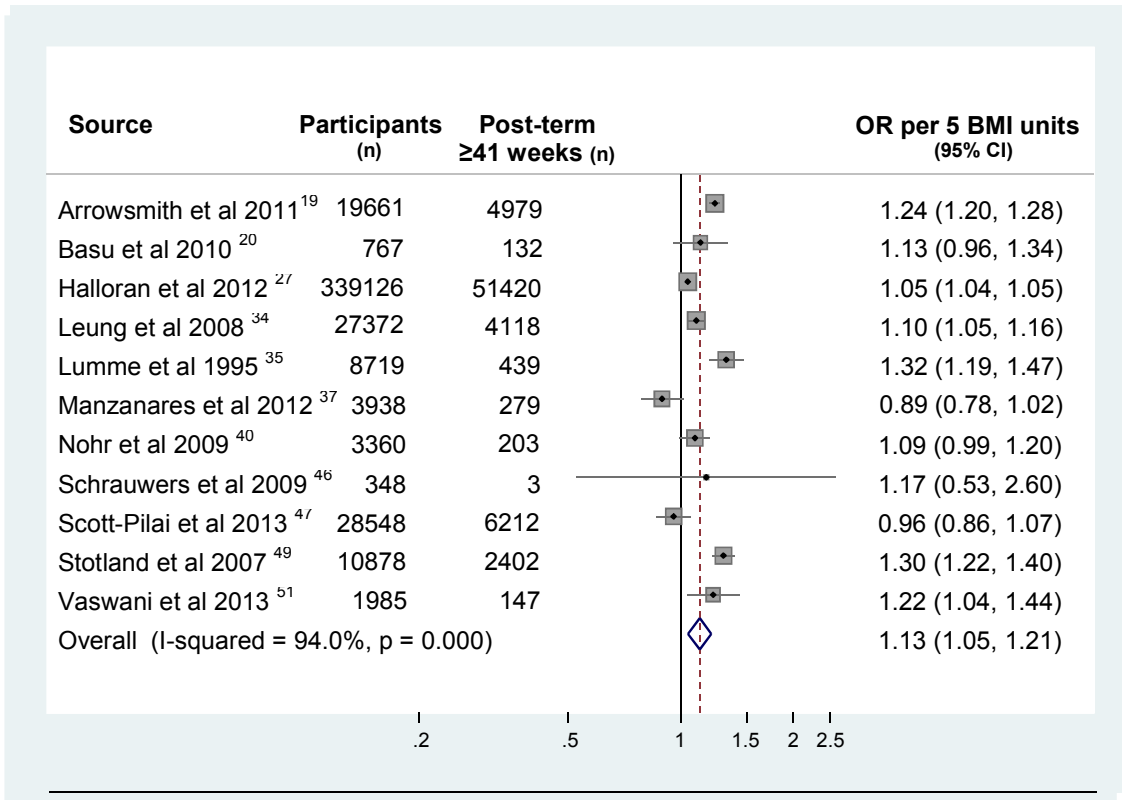


Figure S4b) Association between maternal BMI and post-term birth using General population BMI criteria for Leung et al<sup>34</sup>

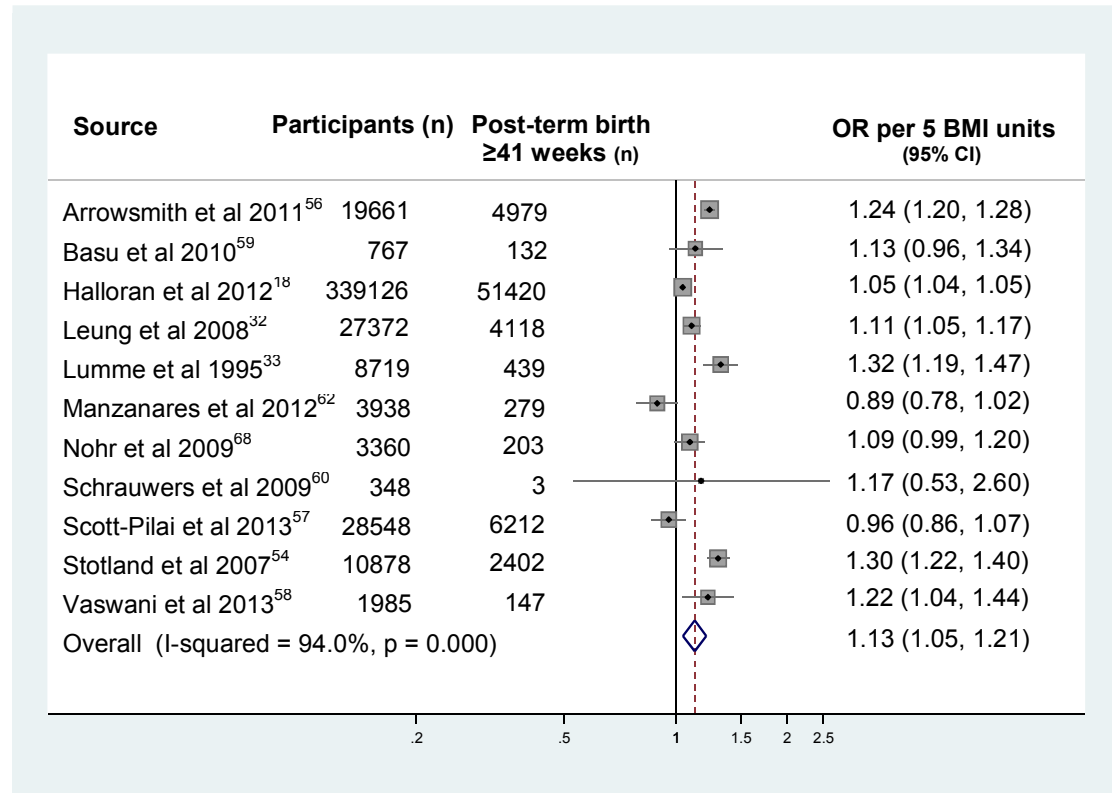


Figure legend: Sensitivity analysis exploring the influence of using the Asian-specific BMI criteria for the study by Leung et al<sup>34</sup> on the overall effect size (OR) and 95% confidence interval for the association between maternal BMI and post-term birth ≥41 weeks. Abbreviations: OR = odds ratio; BMI = body mass index; n = number of individuals; CI = confidence interval.

**Table S6: Nonlinear meta-analyses using cubic splines regression****a) Post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks**

		Number of observations = 17					
		Coef.	Std. err.	z	P	95% Confidence Interval	
Overall							
	spline1	0.0479	0.0096	5.00	<0.001	0.0291	0.0667
	spline2	-0.0302	0.0099	-3.06	0.002	-0.0495	-0.0108

**b) Post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks**

		Number of observations = 11					
		Coef.	Std. err.	z	P	95% Confidence Interval	
Overall							
	spline1	0.020952	0.007184	2.92	0.004	0.006873	0.0350315
	spline2	-0.003860	0.003193	-1.21	0.227	-0.010119	0.0023986

**c) Post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks including Lumme et al<sup>35</sup>**

		Number of observations = 11					
		Coef.	Std. err.	z	P	95% Confidence Interval	
Overall							
	spline1	0.03685	0.011754	3.14	0.002	0.013812	0.059888
	spline2	-0.04136	0.022377	-1.85	0.065	-0.08521	0.002503

Footnote: Nonlinearity was assessed by testing that the coefficient of the second spline was equal to zero.

Abbreviations: z = value for the z statistic

Coef. = coefficient

Std. Err. = Standard error

P = p-value

Table S7: Egger’s test for publication bias for post-term birth (≥ 42 weeks and ≥41 weeks)

	Std_Eff	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P	[95% Conf. Interval]	
≥ 42 weeks	slope	.1796733	.0287235	6.26	0.000	.119072	.2402747
	bias	-1.150876	2.149826	-0.54	0.599	-5.686613	3.38486
	Test of H0: no small-study effects P = 0.599, Number of studies = 19, Root MSE = 7.443						
≥ 41 weeks	slope	.0439365	.0175043	2.51	0.033	.004339	.083534
	bias	2.066102	1.355701	1.52	0.162	-1.000708	5.132911
	Test of H0: no small-study effects P = 0.162, Number of studies = 11, Root MSE = 3.768						

Footnote: Egger's test for small-study effects: Regression of the standard normal deviate of intervention effect estimate against its standard error.

Abbreviations: Std\_Eff = standard normal deviate of intervention effect  
Coef. = coefficient  
Std. Err. = Standard error  
t = t-statistics  
P = p-value

**Table S8: Maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 42$  weeks sensitivity analysis**

	Linear analyses OR (95% CI)	Nonlinear Analyses: BMI Midpoint (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) OR (95% CI)						
Model	5 BMI units	17.5	22.5	27.5	32.5	37.5	42.5	47.5
Arora et al 2013 <sup>18</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.27)	0.80 (0.74,0.87)	1	1.24 (1.15,1.34)	1.42 (1.28,1.58)	1.54 (1.37,1.73)	1.62 (1.42,1.85)	1.71 (1.46,1.99)
Bhattacharya et al 2007 <sup>21</sup>	1.19 (1.11,1.26)	0.81 (0.74,0.89)	1	1.24 (1.14,1.34)	1.41 (1.26,1.59)	1.55 (1.36,1.76)	1.65 (1.44,1.90)	1.76 (1.50,2.06)
Cedergren et al 2004 <sup>24</sup>	1.19 (1.11,1.28)	0.80 (0.72,0.89)	1	1.25 (1.14,1.38)	1.44 (1.25,1.66)	1.57 (1.34,1.85)	1.67 (1.40,2.00)	1.77 (1.44,2.17)
El-Gilani et al 2009 <sup>26</sup>	1.17 (1.10,1.25)	0.82 (0.73,0.89)	1	1.23 (1.14,1.32)	1.40 (1.26,1.56)	1.53 (1.36,1.72)	1.63 (1.45,1.84)	1.74 (1.54,1.97)
Halloran et al 2012 <sup>27</sup>	1.20 (1.14,1.27)	0.79 (0.75,0.83)	1	1.26 (1.21,1.32)	1.45 (1.36,1.55)	1.59 (1.45,1.75)	1.70 (1.48,1.94)	1.80 (1.48,1.94)
Johnson et al 1992 <sup>28</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.27)	0.80 (0.74,0.88)	1	1.24 (1.15,1.34)	1.42 (1.27,1.58)	1.53 (1.36,1.73)	1.62 (1.42,1.85)	1.70 (1.46,1.99)
Kashan et al 2009 <sup>29</sup>	1.20 (1.12,1.28)	0.81 (0.74,0.89)	1	1.24 (1.14,1.34)	1.43 (1.27,1.60)	1.58 (1.38,1.80)	1.71 (1.48,1.97)	1.84 (1.56,2.17)
Kitiyodom et al 2008 <sup>31</sup>	1.16 (1.10,1.24)	0.83 (0.76,0.90)	1	1.21 (1.12,1.31)	1.37 (1.23,1.54)	1.50 (1.32,1.69)	1.59 (1.40,1.82)	1.69 (1.47,1.96)
Konje et al 1993 <sup>33</sup>	1.21 (1.14,1.28)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Knight et al 2010 <sup>32</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.26)	0.81 (0.74,0.87)	1	1.24 (1.15,1.34)	1.42 (1.27,1.58)	1.55 (1.37,1.75)	1.65 (1.44,1.89)	1.75 (1.49,2.04)
Morgan et al 2014 <sup>38</sup>	1.18 (1.12,1.26)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Olesen et al 2006 <sup>41</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.27)	0.80 (0.73,0.88)	1	1.25 (1.15,1.35)	1.43 (1.27,1.61)	1.55 (1.36,1.78)	1.65 (1.43,1.90)	1.74 (1.48,2.05)
Raatikainen et al 2006 <sup>42</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.27)	0.80 (0.74,0.88)	1	1.24 (1.15,1.34)	1.42 (1.27,1.60)	1.55 (1.37,1.77)	1.67 (1.44,1.90)	1.76 (1.50,2.06)
Rode et al 2005 <sup>44</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.26)	0.81 (0.74,0.89)	1	1.23 (1.14,1.33)	1.41 (1.26,1.58)	1.54 (1.36,1.75)	1.64 (1.43,1.89)	1.75 (1.49,2.05)
Roos et al 2010 <sup>45</sup>	1.17 (1.12,1.23)	0.81 (0.74,0.89)	1	1.23 (1.14,1.33)	1.40 (1.25,1.57)	1.51 (1.34,1.57)	1.60 (1.38,1.85)	1.68 (1.40,2.02)
Stotland et al 2007 <sup>49</sup>	1.18 (1.11,1.25)	0.81 (0.74,0.89)	1	1.23 (1.14,1.33)	1.40 (1.25,1.56)	1.52 (1.34,1.72)	1.61 (1.41,1.85)	1.71 (1.46,1.99)
Vinturache et al 2014 <sup>52</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.26)	0.80 (0.74,0.88)	1	1.24 (1.15,1.34)	1.42 (1.27,1.59)	1.55 (1.37,1.76)	1.65 (1.44,1.89)	1.75 (1.50,2.05)
Voigt et al 2008 <sup>53</sup>	1.20 (1.12,1.28)	0.80 (0.73,0.87)	1	1.25 (1.15,1.35)	1.43 (1.28,1.60)	1.57 (1.37,1.80)	1.71 (1.45,2.02)	No data
Yazdani et al 2012 <sup>54</sup>	1.19 (1.12,1.27)	0.80 (0.74,0.87)	1	1.25 (1.15,1.35)	1.43 (1.28,1.60)	1.56 (1.38,1.77)	1.66 (1.45,1.91)	1.76 (1.50,2.06)

Footnote: Sensitivity analyses were performed by excluding one study at a time from the meta-analysis to identify the effect of any one individual study. The summary OR per 5 BMI units, obtained in the linear dose-response analysis, ranged from 1.16 (1.10,1.24) when the study by Kitiyodom et al<sup>31</sup> was removed to 1.20 (1.12,1.28) when either of the studies by Kashan et al<sup>29</sup> and Voigt et al<sup>53</sup> were excluded. Consistently, for the nonlinear analysis the lowest ORs for all overweight and obese BMI midpoints resulted from the exclusion of the study by Kitiyodom et al<sup>31</sup>. Abbreviations: NA = not applicable as study was excluded from nonlinear analysis for reporting only 2 BMI categories.

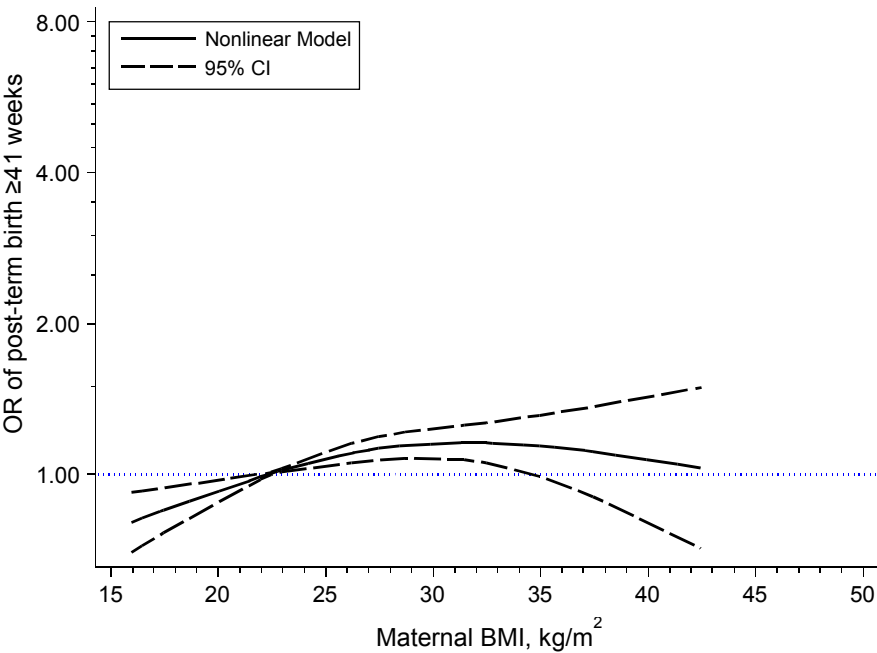


Table S9: Maternal BMI and post-term birth ≥ 41 weeks sensitivity analysis

	Linear analyses OR (95% CI)	Nonlinear Analyses: BMI Midpoint (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) OR (95% CI)					
Model	5 BMI units	17.5	22.5	27.5	32.5	37.5	42.5
Arrowsmith et al 2011 <sup>19</sup>	1.10 (1.05,1.15)	0.87 (0.77,0.97)	1	1.08 (1.05,1.11)	1.05 (0.99,1.11)	0.94 (0.76,1.17)	0.82 (0.54,1.25)
Basu et al 2010 <sup>20</sup>	1.12 (1.05,1.18)	0.84 (0.75,0.94)	1	1.13 (1.07,1.19)	1.15 (1.04,1.26)	1.08 (0.87,1.34)	0.99 (0.67,1.45)
Halloran et al 2012 <sup>27</sup>	1.13 (1.04,1.22)	0.82 (0.73,0.92)	1	1.13 (1.07,1.20)	1.13 (0.98,1.30)	1.02 (0.73,1.41)	0.87 (0.50,1.54)
Leung et al 2008 <sup>34</sup>	1.12 (1.05,1.19)	0.84 (0.75,0.95)	1	1.13 (1.06,1.21)	1.17 (1.07,1.28)	1.12 (0.91,1.38)	1.04 (0.71,1.53)
Lumme et al 1995 <sup>35</sup>	<b>1.10 (1.04,1.16)</b>	<b>0.91 (0.85,0.97)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.11 (1.04,1.20)</b>	<b>1.22 (1.07,1.39)</b>	<b>1.33 (1.10,1.59)</b>	<b>1.43 (1.13,1.83)</b>
Manzanares et al 2012 <sup>37</sup>	1.14 (1.07,1.21)	0.84 (0.76,0.94)	1	1.14 (1.08,1.21)	1.19 (1.09,1.31)	1.17 (0.95,1.43)	1.10 (0.76,1.60)
Nohr et al 2009 <sup>40</sup>	1.12 (1.05,1.19)	0.84 (0.75,0.93)	1	1.13 (1.07,1.20)	1.15 (1.05,1.27)	1.09 (0.87,1.35)	0.99 (0.66,1.46)
Schrauwers et al 2009 <sup>46</sup>	1.12 (1.05,1.18)	0.85 (0.76,0.94)	1	1.12 (1.07,1.19)	1.15 (1.05,1.27)	1.11 (0.90,1.36)	1.02 (0.71,1.49)
Scott-Pilai et al 2013 <sup>47</sup>	1.13 (1.05,1.22)	0.83 (0.74,0.94)	1	1.14 (1.06,1.22)	1.16 (1.01,1.32)	1.08 (0.83,1.43)	0.98 (0.61,1.57)
Stotland et al 2007 <sup>49</sup>	1.10 (1.04,1.17)	0.86 (0.76,0.96)	1	1.11 (1.07,1.16)	1.14 (1.07,1.22)	1.09 (0.89,1.34)	1.01 (0.69,1.50)
Vaswani et al 2013 <sup>51</sup>	1.11 (1.05,1.18)	0.84 (0.76,0.94)	1	1.12 (1.06,1.18)	1.14 (1.04,1.25)	1.08 (0.87,1.34)	0.98 (0.66,1.45)

Footnote: Sensitivity analyses were performed by excluding one study at a time from the meta-analysis to identify the effect of any one individual study. The summary OR per 5 BMI units, obtained in the linear dose-response analysis, ranged from 1.10 (1.04,1.16) when the study by Lumme et al<sup>35</sup> was excluded to 1.13 (1.05,1.22) when the study by Scott-Pilai et al<sup>47</sup> was excluded. In the nonlinear analysis, the biggest change on the ORs for all BMI midpoints occur when excluding the study by Lumme et al<sup>35</sup> resulting in a linear association between maternal BMI and prolonged pregnancy (fig. S5).

**Figure S5: Nonlinear dose-response analysis for maternal BMI and post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks, including all studies**



Legend: Nonlinear meta-analysis for post-term  $\geq 41$  weeks when including Lumme et al<sup>35</sup> study data. Despite the nonlinear appearance of the graph, linearity is not rejected ( $p = 0.065$ , table S6).

Table S10: Meta-regression and sub-group results for post-term birth ≥ 42 weeks

Variable	Effect and Significance				Heterogeneity Results		
	n studies	OR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Sub-group specific $I^2$ (%)	p value	Meta-regression $I^2$ (%)
All studies	19	1.18	1.11	1.26		<0.001	98.1
Clinical Factors							
Assessment of BMI							96.12
Self-reported	9	1.143	1.075	1.215	91.3	<0.001	
Measured	10	1.206	1.122	1.297	97.5	<0.001	
Unclear	0						
Assessment of Gestational Age							98.2
Self-reported (LMP)	2	1.377	0.964	1.967	88.2	0.004	
Measured (USS)	12	1.184	1.095	1.281	98.8	<0.001	
Unclear	5	1.09	1.068	1.113	0	0.76	
Induction of Labour or Caesarean Section - adjusted							94.63
Yes	3	1.301	1.289	1.313	0	0.651	
No	16	1.155	1.095	1.218	95.4	<0.001	
Parity - adjusted							93.79
Yes	4	1.237	1.154	1.325	98.3	<0.001	
No	13	1.129	1.071	1.191	87.4	<0.001	
Primiparous only	2	1.214	1.134	1.3	0	0.472	
Gestational diabetes - adjusted							96.85
Yes	4	1.196	0.952	1.503	87	<0.001	
No	14	1.188	1.12	1.259	97.4	<0.001	
Unclear	1	1.011	0.655	1.56			
Hypertension / Pre-eclampsia - adjusted							98.31
Yes	3	1.385	1.131	1.696	56.4	0.101	
No	15	1.161	1.086	1.24	98.6	<0.001	
Unclear	1	1.011	0.655	1.56			
Methodology/context of included studies							
Geographic location							96.79
Europe	11	1.148	1.079	1.222	97.9	<0.001	
North America	4	1.158	0.972	1.378	87.4	<0.001	
Asia	4	1.42	1.066	1.892	73.1	0.011	
Study Quality score							94.87
0-2	2	1.087	1.065	1.11	0	0.89	
3-5	15	1.168	1.098	1.242	95.7	<0.001	

Variable	Effect and Significance				Heterogeneity Results		
	n studies	OR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Sub-group specific $I^2$ (%)	p value	Meta-regression $I^2$ (%)
6-8	2	1.301	1.289	1.313	0	0.528	
<b>Study dimension</b>							95.97
Local	6	1.19	0.988	1.432	86.5	<0.001	
Regional	8	1.133	1.059	1.212	86.4	<0.001	
National	5	1.181	1.093	1.275	98.8	<0.001	
<b>Study start (per decade)</b>							96.29
1970	1	1.219	1.138	1.307			
1980	3	1.018	0.813	1.274	84.3	0.002	
1990	6	1.203	1.125	1.287	98.5	<0.001	
2000	8	1.17	1.074	1.275	86.8	<0.001	
2010	1	1.011	0.655	1.56			
<b>Type of study</b>							98.22
Retrospective	13	1.185	1.108	1.267	98.8	<0.001	
Prospective	6	1.17	0.882	1.552	79.9	<0.001	
<b>Sample Size</b>							98.33
<1000	10	1.216	1.019	1.452	79.3	<0.001	
1000-<10000	4	1.204	1.145	1.267	48.7	0.119	
>=10000	5	1.122	1.016	1.239	99.6	<0.001	
<b>Number of cases</b>							98.33
<100	7	1.124	0.818	1.545	76.4	<0.001	
100-<1000	4	1.344	1.147	1.575	83	0.001	
1000-<10000	4	1.142	1.05	1.241	92.5	<0.001	
>10000	4	1.144	1.024	1.277	99.6	<0.001	
<b>Number of Exposure Categories</b>							75.95
2	2	1.095	0.373	3.213	86.9	0.006	
3	3	1.09	1.068	1.113	0	0.421	
4	4	1.282	1.211	1.358	29.9	0.233	
5	5	1.217	1.152	1.284	80.5	<0.001	
6	5	1.092	1.027	1.16	84.9	<0.001	
<b>Methodology of this systematic review</b>							
<b>Publication Decade</b>							98.18
1990s	2	0.896	0.515	1.559	91.4	0.001	
2000s	10	1.199	1.14	1.262	93.7	<0.001	
2010s	7	1.145	0.959	1.366	99.2	<0.001	
<b>Study Identification</b>							98.18
Citation Search	4	1.25	0.828	1.888	74.1	0.009	
Database Search	12	1.2	1.115	1.291	98.8	<0.001	
Reference List Search	3	1.029	0.885	1.196	83.5	0.002	
<b>Adjustment of the odds ratios</b>							93.8

Variable	Effect and Significance				Heterogeneity Results		
	n studies	OR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Sub-group specific $I^2$ (%)	p value	Meta-regression $I^2$ (%)
Sub-group							
Unadjusted	15	1.141	1.084	1.202	87.6	<0.001	
Adjusted	4	1.237	1.154	1.325	98.3	<0.001	

Footnote: Highlighted data show the results of the sub-group meta-analyses which resulted in a lack of statistically significant heterogeneity ( $I^2<75\%$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) when three or more studies were included in the meta-analysis. Abbreviations: *n studies* = number of studies, *OR* = odds ratio, *Lower 95% CI* = lower limit of the 95% confidence interval, *Upper 95% CI* = upper limit of the 95% confidence interval, *LMP* = last menstrual period, *USS* = ultrasound scan

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**Table S11: Meta-regression and sub-group results for post-term birth  $\geq 41$  weeks**

Variable Sub-group	n studies	Effect and Significance			Heterogeneity Results		
		OR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Sub-group specific $I^2$ (%)	p value	Meta- regression $I^2$ (%)
<b>All studies</b>	11	1.13	1.06	1.21		<0.001	94
<b>Clinical Factors</b>							
<b>Assessment of BMI</b>							89.54
Self-reported	3	1.14	0.987	1.317	94.8	<0.001	
Measured	8	1.119	1.022	1.225	86.2	<0.001	
Not available	0						
<b>Assessment of Gestational Age</b>							94.3
Self-reported (LMP)	0						
Measured (USS)	4	1.176	1.036	1.335	97.8	<0.001	
Not available	7	1.09	0.989	1.201	79.6	<0.001	
<b>Induction of Labour or Caesarean Section - adjusted</b>							83.51
Yes	3	1.166	1.025	1.328	91.6	<0.001	
No	8	1.103	1.033	1.178	78.9	<0.001	
<b>Parity - adjusted</b>							83.51
Yes	3	1.166	1.025	1.328	91.6	<0.001	
No	8	1.103	1.033	1.178	78.9	<0.001	
Primiparous only	0						
<b>Gestational diabetes - adjusted</b>							94.86
Yes	5	1.145	1.024	1.281	97.2	<0.001	
No	5	1.104	0.947	1.287	81.2	<0.001	
Unclear	1	1.105	1.046	1.167			
<b>Hypertension / Pre-eclampsia - adjusted</b>							83.21
Yes	4	1.178	1.057	1.313	87.3	<0.001	
No	6	1.089	0.989	1.199	80.7	<0.001	
Unclear	1	1.105	1.046	1.167			
<b>Methodology/context of included studies</b>							
<b>Geographic location</b>							92.77
Europe	5	1.095	0.962	1.246	91.5	<0.001	
North America	2	1.164	0.938	1.444	97.4	<0.001	
Asia	2	1.129	1.041	1.224	27	0.242	
Africa	1	1.131	0.959	1.335			
Australia	1	1.172	0.528	2.602			
<b>Study Quality score</b>							85.32
0-2	1	1.172	0.528	2.602			
3-5	7	1.103	1.032	1.179	81.9	<0.001	
6-8	3	1.166	1.025	1.328	91.6	<0.001	
<b>Study dimension</b>							87.05

Variable	Effect and Significance				Heterogeneity Results		
	n studies	OR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Sub-group specific $I^2$ (%)	p value	Meta-regression $I^2$ (%)
Sub-group							
Local	7	1.151	1.058	1.252	84.1	<0.001	
Regional	2	1.169	0.928	1.474	94.6	<0.001	
National	1	1.093	0.995	1.2			
Study start (per decade)							94.18
1980	1	1.324	1.189	1.475			
1990	3	1.164	1.039	1.305	87	<0.001	
2000	6	1.054	0.948	1.172	95.5	<0.001	
2010	1	1.223	1.041	1.436			
Type of study							94.05
Retrospective	9	1.108	1.022	1.202	94.7	<0.001	
Prospective	2	1.201	0.994	1.45	85.7	0.008	
Sample Size							94.87
<1000	2	1.133	0.963	1.333	0	0.932	
1000-<10000	4	1.121	0.952	1.32	86.6	<0.001	
>=10000	5	1.127	1.021	1.244	97.1	<0.001	
Number of cases							87.19
<100	1	1.172	0.528	2.602			
100-<1000	5	1.123	0.982	1.284	82.1	<0.001	
1000-<10000	4	1.152	1.043	1.272	91.3	<0.001	
>10000	1	1.046	1.037	1.054			
Number of Exposure Categories							92.68
4	4	1.288	1.219	1.361	0	0.428	
5	2	1.129	1.041	1.224	27	0.242	
6	5	1.049	0.948	1.162	96.4	<0.001	
Methodology of this systematic review							
Publication Decade							93.51
1990s	1	1.324	1.189	1.475			
2000s	4	1.165	1.045	1.298	80.5	0.002	
2010s	6	1.074	0.972	1.186	95.6	<0.001	
Study Identification							94.23
Citation Search	1	0.893	0.784	1.017			
Database Search	8	1.132	1.046	1.224	95.2	<0.001	
Reference List Search	2	1.322	1.188	1.47	0	0.766	
Adjustment of the odds ratios							82.42
Unadjusted	7	1.091	1.020	1.168	79.8	<0.001	
Adjusted	4	1.178	1.057	1.313	87.3	<0.001	

Footnote: Highlighted data show the results of the sub-group meta-analyses which resulted in a lack of statistically significant heterogeneity ( $I^2<75\%$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) when three or more studies were included in the meta-analysis. Abbreviations: *n studies* = number of studies, *OR* = odds ratio, *Lower 95% CI* = lower limit of the 95% confidence interval, *Upper 95% CI* = upper limit of the 95% confidence interval, *LMP* = last menstrual period, *USS* = ultrasound scan



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5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
6. Manuscript Identifying Number (if you know it) _____		

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Dr. Heslehurst has nothing to disclose.

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4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
6. Manuscript Identifying Number (if you know it)		

Section 2. The Work Under Consideration for Publication

Did you or your institution **at any time** receive payment or services from a third party (government, commercial, private foundation, etc.) for any aspect of the submitted work (including but not limited to grants, data monitoring board, study design, manuscript preparation, statistical analysis, etc.)?

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 3. Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work.

Place a check in the appropriate boxes in the table to indicate whether you have financial relationships (regardless of amount of compensation) with entities as described in the instructions. Use one line for each entity; add as many lines as you need by clicking the "Add +" box. You should report relationships that were **present during the 36 months prior to publication**.

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 4. Intellectual Property -- Patents & Copyrights

Do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work? ☐ Yes ☒ No



## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Section 5. Relationships not covered above

Are there other relationships or activities that readers could perceive to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work?

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### Section 6. Disclosure Statement

Based on the above disclosures, this form will automatically generate a disclosure statement, which will appear in the box below.

Dr. Vieira has nothing to disclose.

### Evaluation and Feedback

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- Royalties:** Funds are coming in to you or your institution due to your patent



## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Section 1. Identifying Information

1. Given Name (First Name) Louise	2. Surname (Last Name) Hayes	3. Date 27-July-2016
4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
6. Manuscript Identifying Number (if you know it) _____		

### Section 2. The Work Under Consideration for Publication

Did you or your institution **at any time** receive payment or services from a third party (government, commercial, private foundation, etc.) for any aspect of the submitted work (including but not limited to grants, data monitoring board, study design, manuscript preparation, statistical analysis, etc.)?

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

### Section 4. Intellectual Property -- Patents & Copyrights

Do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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Dr. Hayes has nothing to disclose.

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**Pending:** The patent has been filed but not issued

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**Licensed:** The patent has been licensed to an entity, whether earning royalties or not

**Royalties:** Funds are coming in to you or your institution due to your patent



ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

Section 1. Identifying Information

1. Given Name (First Name) Lisa	2. Surname (Last Name) Crowe	3. Date 27-July-2016
4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
6. Manuscript Identifying Number (if you know it) 		

Section 2. The Work Under Consideration for Publication

Did you or your institution **at any time** receive payment or services from a third party (government, commercial, private foundation, etc.) for any aspect of the submitted work (including but not limited to grants, data monitoring board, study design, manuscript preparation, statistical analysis, etc.)?

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 4. Intellectual Property -- Patents & Copyrights

Do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work? ☐ Yes ☒ No





## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

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Dr. Crowe has nothing to disclose.

### Evaluation and Feedback

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## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Section 1. Identifying Information

1. Given Name (First Name) Dan	2. Surname (Last Name) Jones	3. Date 27-July-2016
4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
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### Section 2. The Work Under Consideration for Publication

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Do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

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Mr. Jones has nothing to disclose.

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ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

Section 1. Identifying Information

1. Given Name (First Name) Shannon	2. Surname (Last Name) Robalino	3. Date 27-July-2016
4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
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## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Section 1. Identifying Information

1. Given Name (First Name) Emma	2. Surname (Last Name) Slack	3. Date 27-July-2016
4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
6. Manuscript Identifying Number (if you know it)  		

### Section 2. The Work Under Consideration for Publication

Did you or your institution **at any time** receive payment or services from a third party (government, commercial, private foundation, etc.) for any aspect of the submitted work (including but not limited to grants, data monitoring board, study design, manuscript preparation, statistical analysis, etc.)?

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

### Section 3. Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work.

Place a check in the appropriate boxes in the table to indicate whether you have financial relationships (regardless of amount of compensation) with entities as described in the instructions. Use one line for each entity; add as many lines as you need by clicking the "Add +" box. You should report relationships that were **present during the 36 months prior to publication**.

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

### Section 4. Intellectual Property -- Patents & Copyrights

Do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Section 5. Relationships not covered above

Are there other relationships or activities that readers could perceive to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work?

- ☐ Yes, the following relationships/conditions/circumstances are present (explain below):
- ☒ No other relationships/conditions/circumstances that present a potential conflict of interest

At the time of manuscript acceptance, journals will ask authors to confirm and, if necessary, update their disclosure statements. On occasion, journals may ask authors to disclose further information about reported relationships.

### Section 6. Disclosure Statement

Based on the above disclosures, this form will automatically generate a disclosure statement, which will appear in the box below.

Ms. Slack has nothing to disclose.

### Evaluation and Feedback

Please visit <http://www.icmje.org/cgi-bin/feedback> to provide feedback on your experience with completing this form.



## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Instructions

The purpose of this form is to provide readers of your manuscript with information about your other interests that could influence how they receive and understand your work. The form is designed to be completed electronically and stored electronically. It contains programming that allows appropriate data display. Each author should submit a separate form and is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the submitted information. The form is in six parts.

#### 1. Identifying information.

#### 2. The work under consideration for publication.

This section asks for information about the work that you have submitted for publication. The time frame for this reporting is that of the work itself, from the initial conception and planning to the present. The requested information is about resources that you received, either directly or indirectly (via your institution), to enable you to complete the work. Checking "No" means that you did the work without receiving any financial support from any third party – that is, the work was supported by funds from the same institution that pays your salary and that institution did not receive third-party funds with which to pay you. If you or your institution received funds from a third party to support the work, such as a government granting agency, charitable foundation or commercial sponsor, check "Yes".

#### 3. Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work.

This section asks about your financial relationships with entities in the bio-medical arena that could be perceived to influence, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work. You should disclose interactions with ANY entity that could be considered broadly relevant to the work. For example, if your article is about testing an epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) antagonist in lung cancer, you should report all associations with entities pursuing diagnostic or therapeutic strategies in cancer in general, not just in the area of EGFR or lung cancer.

Report all sources of revenue paid (or promised to be paid) directly to you or your institution on your behalf over the 36 months prior to submission of the work. This should include all monies from sources with relevance to the submitted work, not just monies from the entity that sponsored the research. Please note that your interactions with the work's sponsor that are outside the submitted work should also be listed here. If there is any question, it is usually better to disclose a relationship than not to do so.

For grants you have received for work outside the submitted work, you should disclose support ONLY from entities that could be perceived to be affected financially by the published work, such as drug companies, or foundations supported by entities that could be perceived to have a financial stake in the outcome. Public funding sources, such as government agencies, charitable foundations or academic institutions, need not be disclosed. For example, if a government agency sponsored a study in which you have been involved and drugs were provided by a pharmaceutical company, you need only list the pharmaceutical company.

#### 4. Intellectual Property.

This section asks about patents and copyrights, whether pending, issued, licensed and/or receiving royalties.

#### 5. Relationships not covered above.

Use this section to report other relationships or activities that readers could perceive to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work.

#### Definitions.

**Entity:** government agency, foundation, commercial sponsor, academic institution, etc.

**Grant:** A grant from an entity, generally [but not always] paid to your organization

**Personal Fees:** Monies paid to you for services rendered, generally honoraria, royalties, or fees for consulting, lectures, speakers bureaus, expert testimony, employment, or other affiliations

**Non-Financial Support:** Examples include drugs/equipment supplied by the entity, travel paid by the entity, writing assistance, administrative support, etc.

**Other:** Anything not covered under the previous three boxes

**Pending:** The patent has been filed but not issued

**Issued:** The patent has been issued by the agency

**Licensed:** The patent has been licensed to an entity, whether earning royalties or not

**Royalties:** Funds are coming in to you or your institution due to your patent



ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

Section 1. Identifying Information

1. Given Name (First Name) Judith	2. Surname (Last Name) Rankin	3. Date 26-July-2016
4. Are you the corresponding author? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Corresponding Author's Name Nicola Heslehurst
5. Manuscript Title Maternal body mass index and post-term birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis		
6. Manuscript Identifying Number (if you know it)		

Section 2. The Work Under Consideration for Publication

Did you or your institution **at any time** receive payment or services from a third party (government, commercial, private foundation, etc.) for any aspect of the submitted work (including but not limited to grants, data monitoring board, study design, manuscript preparation, statistical analysis, etc.)?

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 3. Relevant financial activities outside the submitted work.

Place a check in the appropriate boxes in the table to indicate whether you have financial relationships (regardless of amount of compensation) with entities as described in the instructions. Use one line for each entity; add as many lines as you need by clicking the "Add +" box. You should report relationships that were **present during the 36 months prior to publication**.

Are there any relevant conflicts of interest? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 4. Intellectual Property -- Patents & Copyrights

Do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work? ☐ Yes ☒ No



## ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

### Section 5. Relationships not covered above

Are there other relationships or activities that readers could perceive to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work?

- ☐ Yes, the following relationships/conditions/circumstances are present (explain below):
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### Section 6. Disclosure Statement

Based on the above disclosures, this form will automatically generate a disclosure statement, which will appear in the box below.

Prof. Rankin has nothing to disclose.

### Evaluation and Feedback

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